



Bad weather moves into Eastern states; 5 dead in South

By REBECCA REYNOLDS
YONKER

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Extreme wind gusts, blowing snow and widespread flooding made traveling treacherous on Friday as a storm system moved into the northeastern United States, leaving rising water and at least five deaths in its wake across the South. More than 400,000 homes and businesses were without power Friday after the National Weather Service warned of gusts up to 60 mph (97 kph) from Virginia into New England.

Falling trees damaged homes and power lines in many places. North Carolina and Virginia, where hundreds of people had to be pulled from flooded homes, had the most customers without electricity, according to poweroutages.us.



Winston-Salem Fire Department firefighters with the Rescue Task Force rescue Donald Harold from his home at Liberty Landing Apartments as flood waters rise around the building on Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020 in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Associated Press

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Payback: Trump ousts officials who testified on impeachment

By DEB RIECHMANN and COLLEEN LONG

WASHINGTON (AP) — Exacting swift punishment against those who crossed him, an emboldened President Donald Trump on Friday ousted two government officials who had delivered damaging testimony against him during his impeachment hearings. The president took retribution just two days after his acquittal by the Senate.

First came news that Trump had ousted Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, the decorated soldier and national security aide who played a central role in the Democrats' impeachment case. He was escorted out of the White House complex Friday, according to his lawyer, who said he was asked



In this Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019, file photo, U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland testifies before the House Intelligence Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, during a public impeachment hearing of President Donald Trump's efforts to tie U.S. aid for Ukraine to investigations of his political opponents.

Associated Press

to leave in retaliation for "telling the truth."

"The truth has cost Lt. Col.

Alexander Vindman his job, his career, and his privacy," David Pressman, an attorney for Vindman, said in a statement. The Army said in a statement that Vindman and his twin brother, Lt. Col. Yevgeny Vindman, who also was asked to leave his job as a White House lawyer on Friday, had been reassigned to the Army.

Next came word that Gordon Sondland, Trump's ambassador to the European Union, also was out.

"I was advised today that the President intends to recall me effective immediately as United States Ambassador to the European Union," Sondland said in a statement.

The White House had not been coy about whether Trump would retaliate against those he viewed as foes in the impeachment drama. White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham said Thursday that Trump was glad it was over and "maybe people should pay for that."

Sondland was a crucial witness in the House impeachment inquiry, telling investigators that "Everyone was

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"You think I'm supposed to be happy with him?" Trump told reporters on the South Lawn of the White House. "I'm not. ... They are going to be making that decision."

Vindman, a 20-year Army veteran, wore his uniform full of medals, including a purple heart, when he appeared late last year for what turned out to be a testy televised impeachment hearing. Trump supporters raised questions about the immigrant's allegiance to the United States — his parents fled the Soviet Union when he was a child — and noted that he had received offers to work for the government of Ukraine, offers Vindman said he swiftly dismissed.

"I am an American," he stated emphatically.

Trump backers cheered Vindman's removal, while Democrats were aghast.

"The White House is running a two for one special today on deep state leakers," Rep. Paul Gosar, an Arizona Republican, wrote on Twitter.

A Twitter account used by the president's reelection campaign, @TrumpWarRoom, claimed Vindman leaked information to the whistleblower whose complaint about Trump's call ignited the investigation, and "colluded with Democrats to start the partisan impeachment coup."

Former Trump NSC official Tim Morrison testified that others had brought concerns that Vindman may have leaked something. Vindman, in his own congressional testimony, denied leaking any information.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said the firing was another example of how the "White House runs away from the truth." □

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Continued from front

With water levels rising fast after up to 8 inches (20 centimeters) of rain in just three days, the Tennessee Valley Authority said it began making controlled releases from some of its 49 dams in Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama and North Carolina. That could lead to more flooding downstream, so people who live near the water should be wary, said James Everett, senior manager of the utility's river forecast center in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Creek water was still raging Friday in Alabama's Buck's Pocket State Park, where a person was seen inside a car as it disappeared under the surface two days earlier. Rangers walked for miles above the swollen creek but found no trace of the vehicle, so authorities sent up a state helicopter crew on Friday.

"The weather is better, but the water is not. The water is several feet higher than normal. It's extremely high and fast," Alabama Trooper Chuck Daniel told The Associated Press. "Until that water slows down, nobody's going to get in that water."

It took nearly three weeks last year to recover the body of an 18-year-old who was in a Jeep that got swept into the water in the same area.

The National Weather Service was using radar data and making damage assessments to confirm many reports of tornadoes touching down, including spots in Virginia and Maryland, near the nation's capital, meteorologist Isha Renta told the AP. In the Tampa, Florida, area, tornadoes blew a tree onto a mobile home, trapping an elderly

woman, and toppled a construction crane along Interstate 275.

The dangerous winds formed the leading edge of a band of weather that stretched from Tennessee to Maine on Friday, blowing snow into northern states. As much as 4 inches (10 centimeters) fell overnight in Ohio, contributing to car accidents in the Akron area, and the Ohio Department of Transportation urged people to make room for nearly 1,300 state crews working to improve the icy conditions.

Up to 8 inches (20 centimeters) of snow was predicted in West Virginia, and Gov. Ralph Northam declared a state of emergency in Virginia, where he said more than 500 people had to be rescued from their homes as the waters rose.

Citing floods, rain, snow, power outages or all of the above, many school districts canceled classes in state after state.

Earlier, the weather destroyed mobile homes in Mississippi, Alabama and Florida, caused mudslides in Tennessee and Kentucky and flooded communities that shoulder waterways across the Appalachian region.

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear on Friday declared a state of emergency across the state and especially in its southeast region, which was hard-hit by flooding and landslides in recent days.

Also Friday, West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice declared a state of emergency in seven counties that experienced flooding and has mobilized the state's National Guard.

Authorities confirmed five storm-related fatalities, in



Fallen trees rest on an apartment complex damaged by high winds Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020, in Spartanburg, S.C. A powerful winter storm brought severe weather across the Deep South early Thursday.

Associated Press

Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina and Tennessee.

Anita Rembert was killed and her husband was injured, but their child and two grandchildren were unhurt as high winds destroyed two mobile homes near the town of Demopolis, Alabama, according to the county's emergency management director, Kevin McKinney. They emerged to a scene littered with plywood, insulation, broken trees and twisted metal.

At least four other people died in vehicles that were hit by falling trees or lost control in heavy rain or floods. Authorities pleaded with motorists to avoid driving where they can't see the pavement.

A driver died in South Carolina when a tree fell on an SUV near Fort Mill, Highway Patrol Master Trooper Gary Miller said. The driver's

name wasn't immediately released.

In North Carolina's Gaston County, Terry Roger Fisher was killed after his pickup truck hydroplaned in heavy rain, plunged down a 25-foot (8-meter) embankment and overturned in a creek, the North Carolina State Highway Patrol said, according to news outlets. An unidentified man died and two others were injured Thursday when a car hydroplaned in Knoxville, Tennessee, and hit a truck, police said in a news release. And in Tennessee, 36-year-old teacher Brooke Sampson was killed and four people were injured when a rain-soaked tree fell on a van carrying Sevierville city employees, officials said. The crash, though still under investigation, appeared to have been weather-related according to preliminary information, said Tennessee Highway Patrol

spokesman Lt. Bill Miller. There's little room to relax after this storm blows through, because there's more wild weather to come.

"We do expect another storm system to come along about midweek next week and bring heavy precipitation to some of the same areas that just saw it over the past 24 hours. So something to keep an eye on for next week," meteorologist Greg Carbin of the Weather Prediction Center told the AP. Schools around New York were closed as the storm moved through the state. Operators of the Thruway reduced the highway's speed limit from 65 mph (105 kph) to 45 mph (72 kph) across more than 100 miles (160 kilometers) amid snowy, icy conditions. In northern New York, an ice storm left more than 35,000 customers without power as falling tree limbs brought down power lines. □

ACLU criticizes conviction of black Minnesota teen

By ROBIN McDOWELL
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota called Friday for an investigation into the conviction of a black teenager who is serving life in prison, after The Associated Press uncovered serious flaws and inconsistencies in the police probe.

Myon Burrell was found guilty in the 2002 shooting of an 11-year-old girl, who was killed by stray bullet while doing homework at her dining room table.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who was the top prosecutor in Minnesota's most populous Hennepin County at the time, has highlighted that case throughout her political career as an example

of getting justice for victims. The ACLU of Minnesota called on her office — now headed by Michael Freeman — to investigate Burrell's case and to vacate his conviction. It also pushed for the creation of new unit to prevent, identify and remedy false convictions.

"Myon Burrell has spent his entire adult life behind bars

for a crime it appears he likely did not commit, and that's a gross miscarriage of justice," ACLU-MN Executive Director John Gordon said in a statement.

Not only was there no physical evidence tying him to the scene, he said, the AP investigation showed that police made no attempt to speak to Burrell's key alibi and discredited co-defen-

dants who said he was not at the scene. One of them, Ike Tyson, has for years insisted he himself was the triggerman.

Police also relied heavily on jailhouse informants, who were given reduced sentences for coming forward. The lead homicide detective was also seen on video offering cash for hearsay. □



In this Nov. 20, 2019 file photo, Chair of the Democratic National Committee, Tom Perez, speaks before a Democratic presidential primary debate in Atlanta. Perez is calling for a "recanvass" of the results of Monday's Iowa caucus.

Associated Press

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'Serious discussions' about DNC changes, top Democrat says

By LISA MASCARO
AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top Democrat in Congress said Friday the party's future under Tom Perez is under scrutiny amid fallout from the Iowa caucuses and the winnowing of the presidential primary field to the exclusion of candidates of color.

Rep. Jim Clyburn of South Carolina, the third-ranking House Democrat, stopped short of saying Perez must go as leader of the Democratic National Committee. "That's a decision for him," he said.

But the highest-ranking African American lawmaker in the House said during an interview with C-SPAN's "Newsmakers" that Iowa shouldn't play such an outsize role as an early vote state and that debate rules left "very raw feelings" within the Congressional Black Caucus after the exit of black presidential hopefuls Kamala Harris and Cory

Booker.

"There are some serious discussions taking place here on Capitol Hill as to what ought to happen at the DNC," Clyburn said in the interview.

"Iowa should be in the mix, but we shouldn't launch the entire campaign with such a small sampling with what the country's all about," he said.

Perez didn't immediately comment on Clyburn's remarks Friday.

Previously, the DNC chairman has defended the rules setting minimums for polling and the number of individual donors, noting that the party started at a low threshold last June and gradually raised the requirements over time. All 20 slots were filled in the first two debates, and two stages were required for much of the fall.

Perez argued throughout that any candidate unable to meet the progressively higher marks like wasn't likely to defeat

President Donald Trump in November. Some party officials also have noted that minority voters are still represented on the stage via their support for candidates like Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Vice President Joe Biden. The two white men have consistently drawn strong support among non-white voters, according to most polls of Democratic voters nationally.

Clyburn, who fought for years to push South Carolina onto the early primary calendar, signaled he may make his own endorsement ahead of the Feb. 29 primary.

Close with Biden, Clyburn is worried about the impact that Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, would have on down-ballot races for Congress as a presidential nominee, particularly in more conservative areas. A photo of Clyburn himself also flashed in the ad, which Clyburn said he didn't mind. □

Bolton reviewing letter from White House about manuscript



In this March 5, 2019 file photo, national security adviser John Bolton adjusts his glasses before an interview at the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

Former national security adviser John Bolton's team on Friday accused the White House of trying to suppress his unpublished book after word surfaced that the National Security Council had sent him a letter expressing concerns that the manuscript contained classified information.

The White House has been scrutinizing Bolton's book, which is due out next month, for classified materials as part of a standard pre-publication review process.

Sarah Tinsley, a senior adviser to Bolton, issued a statement Friday acknowledging that a letter from

the NSC had been sent to Chuck Cooper, Bolton's lawyer. News that the letter had been sent had started circulating in Washington earlier in the day.

"This latest leak from the NSC's pre-publication review process raises even more serious concerns that the process has been thoroughly breached, and that it is more about suppressing Ambassador Bolton's book than about classification issues," Tinsley said.

She said Bolton was reviewing the letter and would respond. She said Bolton continues to believe "that the manuscript contains no legitimately classified material."

The book alleges President Donald Trump tied the suspension of military aid to Ukraine to the country's willingness to help with investigations into the president's political rivals. □

Judge upholds Maryland ban on pet stores' sale of cats, dogs

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN

Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) —

A federal judge on Friday threw out a lawsuit that challenged Maryland's newly enacted ban on the sale of dogs and cats by retail pet stores, a statute billed as a check against unlicensed and unsanitary "puppy mills."

Four pet stores, a dog breeder and a dog broker sued in August to block the law, which took effect Jan. 1. Maryland was the second state after California to pass such restrictions on the sale of dogs and cats.

The law bans pet stores from selling dogs and cats but encourages them to collaborate with animal welfare groups to "showcase" dogs from shelters, animal control units and "local breeders."

U.S. District Judge Ellen Hollander, who also denied the plaintiffs' request for a preliminary injunction blocking the law's enforcement, said she found ample evidence that state lawmakers had a "rational basis" for enacting the statute.

"Protecting consumers, reducing financial support for mill breeders, and encouraging pet adoption are indisputably legitimate state interests," she wrote in her 79-page decision.

Hollander said the plaintiffs essentially argued that lawmakers improperly tried to harm pet stores by siding with animal-rights groups.

"This argument is without merit. Siding with one group does not necessarily signify hostility towards another," the judge wrote.

The pet stores have said the ban will put them out of business. One of the plaintiffs, Just Puppies, closed "for a period" after the law took effect last month, said plaintiffs' attorney Jonathan Kagan. The ban already has "significantly impacted" the stores that have stayed open in hopes of getting a favorable court ruling, he added.

Kagan couldn't immediately say if his clients would appeal the ruling. "We're still trying to digest it," he said.

Maryland's law encourages animal welfare organizations to collaborate with retail pet stores to showcase cats and dogs for adoption or purchase from "local breeders," according to a summary of the legislation prepared by state analysts. The pet stores argued the ban is unconstitutional, violating the Commerce Clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Their suit said the legislation's intent to facilitate sales from local breeders discriminates against out-of-state breeders and brokers.

The judge said the law is a "poorly drafted statute" that doesn't define the terms "showcase" and "local breeders." But she agreed with the state that the law does not carve out a special exception for local breeders to sell cats or dogs through pet stores or preclude out-of-state breeders and brokers from showcasing their animals in pet stores.

"As such, the Act does not expressly distinguish between in-state and out-of-state breeders and brokers," Hollander wrote.

The lawsuit also said animal welfare organizations have made unfounded claims that pet stores are fueling the growth of puppy mills. The suit claimed the ban effectively shifts the sale of puppies from regulated retailers to unregulated sources, such as sellers placing ads on the internet or in newspapers.

"Internet pet sales have a notoriously high incidence of fraud and scams which will only increase against Maryland residents once the ban takes effect," the suit said.

The judge said there are "certainly grounds to support plaintiffs' belief that, in effect, the cure is worse than the disease."

"But, whatever the Act's soundness, that is a judgment committed to the legislature," Hollander added. Gov. Larry Hogan, a Republican, signed the legislation into law in April 2018 after the state Senate unanimously approved it



In this Monday, Aug. 26, 2019 file photo, Puppies play in a cage at a pet store in Columbia, Md. Associated Press

and the House passed it, 129-8.

The defendants include the state Senate's finance committee and Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh, whose office will be responsible for enforcing the ban.

The first law of this kind took

effect in January 2019 in California. Unlike Maryland's blanket ban on the sale of dogs and cats by pet stores, California law prohibits pet stores from selling a dog, cat or rabbit unless it came from an animal shelter or rescue group. Some local governments,

including in Maryland, already have enacted similar measures.

Maine also recently enacted a law prohibiting the sale of cats and dogs in stores, and New York is contemplating a pet store ban similar to Maryland's, Hollander noted. □

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NY to sue U.S. over its ouster from trusted traveler programs

By MARINA VILLENEUVE

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York state will file a lawsuit challenging the Department of Homeland Security's decision to block New Yorkers from participating in "trusted traveler programs" in retribution for a new state law that could hinder federal immigration enforcement, officials said Friday.

"It's an abuse of power. It's extortion. It is hurting New Yorkers to advance their political agenda. And we're going to fight back," Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, said at a news conference in New York.

The lawsuit is the latest salvo in an escalating fight over immigration policy between President Donald Trump and Democratic leaders in his home state.

In December, a new state



In this Feb. 25, 2019 file photo, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo speaks during a bill signing ceremony in New York.

Associated Press

law took effect allowing New York residents to apply

for driver's licenses without having to prove they are in

the U.S. legally. Part of that law also sought to protect immigrants in the country illegally who applied for the new licenses by prohibiting the state's Department of Motor Vehicles from giving records to federal immigration agents.

On Thursday, the Department of Homeland Security retaliated, saying it would no longer allow New Yorkers to enroll, or renew their membership in, certain federal programs that make it easier for people traveling internationally to get through border security, including Global Entry.

In announcing the change, acting Department of Homeland Security Secretary Ken Cuccinelli said New York had endangered public safety by barring federal agents from quickly accessing vehicle and criminal records to check for fugitive warrants or confirm someone's identification.

The ouster is expected to affect at least 175,000 New Yorkers now enrolled in the programs, who will be kicked out as their permits expire, plus around 30,000 commercial truck drivers enrolled in a program that eases their crossings into the U.S. from Canada.

New York Attorney General Letitia James, who will oversee the lawsuit, called their

removal from the program "political retribution, plain and simple." In the suit, she will argue that the Trump administration's action is arbitrary and has violated New York's sovereign immunity and the equal rights and privileges of all New Yorkers.

"Time and time again President Trump and his Washington enablers have gone out of their way to hurt New York and other blue states whenever they can as punishment for refusing to fall in line with their dangerous and divisive agenda," James said in a statement. Cuomo called the move to block New Yorkers a "joke" Friday and said the president could simply ask the FBI for criminal records in New York.

Several other states have similar policies of allowing immigrants in the country illegally to get driver's licenses, but New York is the only state that bans the sharing of motor vehicle records with immigration agents, Department of Homeland Security officials said.

Trump has been singling out New York in recent months for especially harsh criticism over so-called sanctuary policies for immigrants. The president assailed New York City officials in his State of the Union address over its policy of not turning over some criminal defendants wanted for immigration violations. Immigration and Customs Enforcement also recently sent subpoenas to law enforcement in Denver and New York seeking information on immigrants they hope to deport. □

Madoff victims invited to say if he should get out of prison

NEW YORK (AP) — Victims of imprisoned financier Bernard Madoff's mammoth Ponzi scheme can express views on whether he should be released early from prison, prosecutors said Friday. The U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan announced that those who suffered financial losses in the scheme have until the end of February to submit emails to Judge Denny Chin through the prosecutor's office.

"If you are a victim of Madoff's crimes and you wish to provide your views to Judge Chin with respect to Madoff's motion for a sentence reduction, you may do so," prosecutors said.

Chin, who now sits on the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, will decide whether to grant Madoff's compassionate relief request to be released early from his 150-year prison sentence because of medical issues.

Madoff, 81, requested early release this week on grounds that he has termi-



In this Tuesday, March 10, 2009, file photo, former financier Bernard Madoff exits federal court in Manhattan, in New York.

Associated Press

nal kidney disease and less than 18 months to live.

Madoff has been imprisoned since he pleaded guilty in early 2009 to defrauding thousands of clients of billions of dollars as he oversaw their accounts, sometimes for decades.

In his request for early release, his lawyer cited end-stage kidney disease and other "chronic, serious medical conditions," including hypertension and

cardiovascular disease.

Prosecutors have not yet responded in writing to the request by Madoff, who is housed at the federal prison in Butner, North Carolina, where he entered the palliative care unit of the facility in July. The U.S. Bureau of Prisons has already denied Madoff's request, concluding in December that his early release would "minimize the severity of his offense." □

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 A black and white photograph of a white metal sign with a curved top. The sign has the word "ARUBA" in large letters at the top, followed by "Clean" in a script font. Below that, it says "HELP US" and "KEEP ARUBA" on separate lines, and "CLEAN" on the line after. At the bottom, it says "is more" and "DUSHI" in large, bold letters. The sign is set against a background of a sandy beach and some foliage.

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Alison Rickert holds out an assortment of menstrual care products in Purdue University Stewart Center, Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020, in West Lafayette, Ind.

Associated Press

Purdue University to offer free tampons, pads in bathrooms

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP)

— Purdue University will offer free tampons and other feminine hygiene products in the campus' bathrooms in response to student advocates who have been pushing for the move for three years.

University President Mitch Daniels on Thursday credited the University Senate, a faculty-led body, for proposing the initiative in a resolution that described feminine hygiene products as a basic necessity that should be in campus restrooms free of charge. The measure was set to be voted on later this month, but Daniels obtained permission from the University Senate to go ahead and implement it.

"I think people will treat it responsibly," Daniels told WLFI in an interview. "That's what the Purdue family does."

It's not yet clear when the public university will stock its West Lafayette campus bathrooms with free pads, liners and tampons, a university spokesman said.

Alison Rickert, a junior studying neurobiology and phys-

iology at Purdue, founded The Period Project—an initiative aimed at providing menstrual products to those who need them both in and out of university walls. She said Purdue's decision resulted from she and other students advocating for the same issue.

"We didn't all know each other, necessarily," Rickert said. "But we all were heading to the same place. That's how movements happen, right?"

Audrey Ruple, chair of the University Senate's Equity and Diversity Committee, said she expected push-back, but Daniels' support reassured her.

"It's a lot of work for someone and some money," Rickert said Thursday. "But it's happening. Finally. What a great day."

The West Lafayette campus has more than 650 women's and gender-neutral bathrooms in the academic and administration buildings, Purdue spokeswoman Rebecca Terry said. That number doesn't include residence halls or athletic facilities. □

Guatemalan family seeking asylum reunited after suing feds

By PHILIP MARCELO
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — A Guatemalan family seeking asylum has been reunited in Massachusetts after challenging their separation under the Trump administration's controversial "Remain in Mexico" asylum process. The American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts said Friday that Maudy Constanza, Hanz Morales and their three children were reunited a day earlier at Boston's Logan International Airport after nearly seven months apart.

"I feel tremendous happiness," said Morales said in a statement provided by the ACLU, which also posted a brief video of the family's emotional reunion. "I am very happy to be with my wife and my daughters, and I feel safe because I am in a safe country with all of my family. This is a great blessing that God has made possible."

The civil rights group said the reunification happened after the federal government agreed to settle a lawsuit it had filed in Boston federal court on the family's behalf. The ACLU said it will be seeking to dismiss the case.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, declined to comment, citing the pending litigation.

The family is among nearly 60,000 asylum-seekers who have been sent back to Mexico as a result of President Donald Trump's Remain in Mexico policy, which took effect in January 2019. American authorities have lauded the program, saying it's helped to significantly reduce illegal border crossings.

The family had fled Guat-



This photo taken Dec. 21, 2019, shows Maudy Constanza, 24, whose had her family divided as they tried to come to the United States to seek asylum.

Associated Press

temala last year after Morales said he was shot four times. But the family split up just before crossing the border to seek asylum. Constanza and her two daughters were allowed to enter the U.S. to await the outcome of their asylum claim, but Morales and their 9-year-old son were returned to Mexico to wait out their case there.

The ACLU argued the Trump administration's new asylum policy violated the family's constitutional due process and equal protection rights.

The civil rights group said it is illegal to send people back to countries where they will be persecuted or tortured, and that migrants fearing for their safety have the right to see an immigration judge before they're turned away.

The ACLU said Morales and his son's time living near the border in Mexico was "extremely perilous." The pair lived "mostly in hiding" after surviving an attempted kidnapping and going hungry because it was too dangerous to go out to buy food, it said.

"This reunion is bittersweet because this family never should have had to endure this separation and heartbreak," Susan Church, Constanza's immigration lawyer, said in a statement provided by the ACLU. "Although we are overjoyed to see them reunited, many more people are still suffering under this dangerous asylum ban."

Formally known as the Migrant Protection Protocols, the policy requires asylum seekers from certain Spanish-speaking nations, including Guatemala, to wait out the U.S. immigration court process in Mexico.

The family's suit is among a handful that have sought to challenge the new asylum policy.

The ACLU and other groups also sued last year in San Francisco federal court on behalf of 11 migrants. An appeals court panel heard arguments in the case in October but has yet to rule. □

New U.K. envoy to U.S. wants expanded ties and talks with Trump

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's new ambassador to the United States said Friday she looks forward to expanding the traditional security and economic partnership between the two nations to new areas like artificial intelligence and to having talks with President Donald Trump, who has always been "gracious and friendly" to her.

Karen Pierce, a veteran diplomat who is currently Britain's ambassador to the United Nations, was named to the new post Friday.

She said she thinks the "special relationship" between the United Kingdom and the United States will stay the same following Britain's departure from the European Union, "because some of what binds us together, particularly on the security side, is deep and enduring and it's also two-way." She recalled U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's recent statement in London that British intelligence has helped prevent attacks on American soil.

Pierce, 60, will replace Kim Darroch, whose critical portrayal of the Trump administration led to an embarrassing trans-Atlantic spat and his resignation from the Washington ambassadorial post in July.

Trump expressed fury when leaked diplomatic documents from Darroch, pub-



Karen Pierce listens to questions from the media in New York on Friday, February 7, 2020.

Associated Press

lished in Britain's Mail on Sunday newspaper, called the U.S. administration's policy toward Iran "incoherent," said the president might be indebted to "dodgy Russians," and questioned whether the White House "will ever look competent." Trump tweeted that Darroch was "wacky" and "a very stupid guy."

Pierce said in an interview with The Associated Press at Britain's U.N. Mission after her appointment was announced in London that she has been "lucky" to have met the president several times, with the

prime minister and the U.N. Security Council, stressing how "gracious" he was. While "one would always be nervous meeting a head of state," Pierce said, she looks forward to conversations with Trump about all the areas "our countries care about so much."

One critical issue will be Britain's need to strike a trade deal with the United States following its EU exit.

Pierce said there are also areas "where we disagree," some where disagreements are "quite deep — but I don't think that affects the overall health of the re-

lationship."

Britain and the U.S. disagree about the Iran nuclear deal that Trump pulled the U.S. out of, the Paris climate agreement that the U.S. also exited and Chinese tech giant Huawei's 5G network, which the U.K. opted not to ban as the Trump administration sought.

Pierce recalled that when she served at the British Embassy in Washington in the 1990s, there was "a big gulf" between the U.S. and Europe over Bosnia and the Balkan war, saying the rift "did leak into all different aspects of relations."

"I'm not seeing that now," she said. "Obviously I will do my best to put the British point of view across and do my best to narrow differences. But I think it's also about exploiting opportunities for both America and for Britain in this relationship."

In the announcement of her appointment, British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said, "It is a time of huge opportunity for the friendship between the U.K. and U.S. and I am delighted that Karen Pierce will take forward this exciting new chapter in our relationship."

Pierce, who was the first woman to be Britain's U.N. ambassador and will be the first woman to be its U.S. ambassador, said she doesn't think Trump will be disappointed she was chosen rather than Nigel Farage, the Brexit Party leader who is Britain's leading champion of Trump. The U.S. president had said Farage would make a "great ambassador."

Pierce said she is looking ahead to expanding U.K.-U.S. relations.

"It's a huge honor anywhere to represent your country, but to be able to do that in Washington ... at a really important time in Britain's development of the nation, I have to say I'm slightly overwhelmed, but I am really, really looking forward to it," she said. □

Dutch euthanasia center sees 22% rise in requests in 2019

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — A Dutch organization that carries out euthanasia received 3,122 requests last year, a 22% increase from the year before, the Euthanasia Expertise Center said Friday.

"Every work day, 13 people say: 'Help me, I can't go on,'" Steven Pleiter, director of the center formerly known as the End of Life Clinic, said.

The center has experts who advise general practitioners in euthanasia cases and teams made up of doctors, psychiatrists and

nurses who visit patients to evaluate their requests and administer fatal doses of drugs if they meet euthanasia criteria.

The Netherlands in 2002 became the first country in the world to legalize euthanasia. It can only be performed by physicians who administer fatal drug doses under strict conditions.

The center said it honored nearly 900, or about one-third, of the requests it received in 2019. The requests often were in cases of people with dementia or suffering multiple physical complaints linked to old age.

The center also works with patients whose regular doctors do not want to carry out the procedure, according to the organization's website.

The number of people with dementia who received euthanasia rose from 70 in 2018 to 96 last year, the Euthanasia Expertise Center said. Two of those cases involved patients with dementia so advanced they were considered mentally incapacitated.

Last year, a Dutch doctor was acquitted of murder charges brought after she carried out euthanasia on a patient with severe

dementia more than three years ago. Prosecutors alleged she failed to follow the legal criteria for performing the procedure.

Under Dutch law, people are eligible for euthanasia if they make a considered, voluntary request for it and if their suffering is hopelessly "unbearable."

Patients can draw up an advance directive stating their wish for euthanasia sometime in the future and the specific conditions that would determine the timing. Doctors must also seek the advice of at least one other independent physician before killing the pa-

tient.

The center said the number of euthanasia requests is putting a strain on staff.

"The numbers have a heavy impact on the organization," Pleiter said in a statement.

"At the moment, we have vacancies across the board — doctors, psychiatrists and nurses."

Regional monitoring committees that evaluate all cases of euthanasia said that all of the requests honored by the center were carried out "carefully," meaning in accordance with the legislation, the center said. □



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A couple shelter under an umbrellas as rain falls in Sydney, Friday, Feb. 7, 2020, while the Bureau of Meteorology issued severe weather warning along the New South Wales state coast.

Associated Press

Heavy rain, floods lash eastern Australia, help with fires

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)

— Heavy rains lashed parts of the wildfire and drought-stricken Australian east coast on Friday, bringing some flooding in Sydney and relief to firefighters still dealing with dozens of blazes in New South Wales. New South Wales is the state hardest hit by wildfires that have killed at least 33 and destroyed more than 3,000 homes in an unprecedented fire season that began late in a record-dry 2019.

New South Wales Rural Fire Service Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said he was optimistic the rain will help extinguish some blazes over the coming days. He said there were still 42 fires burning in the state, with 17 of those not contained.

"The rain is good for business and farms as well as being really good for quenching

some of these fires we've been dealing with for many, many months," he said.

"We don't want to see lots of widespread damage and disruption from flooding, but it is certainly a welcome change to the relentless campaign of hot, dry weather," he added. Firefighters can't contain major blazes across the southeast without heavy rain. The rain forecast to move southwest from the northeastern coast over the next week would be the first substantial soakings to reach dozens of fires that have spread for weeks. Heavy rain and flash-flooding warnings extend across most of the New South Wales coast. Authorities say they rescued six people stranded from flood water in New South Wales since Wednesday. □



French President Emmanuel Macron delivers a speech at the Ecole Militaire Friday, Feb. 7, 2020 in Paris.

Associated Press

France seeks lead post-Brexit role in EU nuclear strategy

By THOMAS ADAMSON

PARIS (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron on Friday advocated a more coordinated European Union defense strategy in which France, the bloc's only post-Brexit nuclear power, and its arsenal would occupy a central role.

Macron outlined France's nuclear strategy during a speech to graduating military officers one week after Britain, Europe's only other nuclear-armed state, officially exited the EU. The French leader said his country sees its nuclear weapons as a deterrent against attacks from belligerent foes, though acknowledged that France's nuclear might is diminished

after its military scaled down its arsenal to under 300 nuclear weapons.

But Macron's keynote speech aimed to project strength. The president said he refused to sign any treaties at this time to further reduce the size of France's nuclear arsenal and announced an increase in military spending.

Macron also positioned himself as the driving force for a united EU, using France's military clout to make his point. He touted the French military's role in spots such as Africa's Sahel, where he just pledged an additional 600 troops to fight extremists. The central idea in the speech, however, was that of a boosted Europe-wide role for the

French nuclear arsenal in a more coordinated European defense policy.

Macron said it the strategy would prevent Europe "confining itself to a spectator role" in an environment dominated by Russia, the United States and China.

"Europeans must collectively realize that, in the absence of a legal framework, they could quickly find themselves exposed to the resumption of a conventional, even nuclear, arms race on their soil," Macron warned. His remarks come at a time when NATO allies, who would ordinarily look to the United States for help in a nuclear standoff, worry about Washington's retreat from the multilateral stage. □

INSIDE & OUTSIDE SEATING - FREE PARKING

Syrian advance sends hundreds of thousands fleeing in Idlib

By SARAH EL DEEB and SUZAN FRASER

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Turkey on Friday sent more troops and tanks to bolster its military presence in northwestern Syria, where President Bashar Assad's forces have been advancing in a devastating, Russian-backed offensive that has sparked a massive wave of people fleeing in wet and blustery winter weather.

Syria's Idlib region near the border with Turkey is the last rebel-held bastion in the war-ravaged country. The push by Assad's forces into towns and villages in the province over the past months has uprooted more than a half-million people who fled the advancing troops. Many of them already have been displaced several times in the 8-year-old Syrian war.

The campaign also has angered Turkey, which backs the rebels, and brought the two countries' troops into a rare, direct confrontation: At least eight Turkish troops and civilians and 13 Syrian soldiers have been killed.

As Syrian and Russian warplanes indiscriminately pounded hospitals, clinics and schools in the enclave, civilians packed their belongings in cars, taxis and pickup trucks. They streamed toward the Turkish border with few options left that are outside Syrian government control.



A man carries his belongings through a street destroyed in recent bombings by the Syrian government forces in the town of Sarmin, in Idlib province, Syria, Friday, Feb. 7, 2020.

Associated Press

Many end up in tents or sheltering in abandoned buildings during rainy and windy weather, with temperatures hovering around freezing but predicted to fall over the weekend.

"If they stay, they run the risk of falling victim to the indiscriminate violence taking place in urban areas. If they leave, they have nowhere to go," said Lorenzo Redalié, head of the Aleppo office of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

"The shelters can't accommodate everyone, and it is more and more challenging for humanitarians to

reach them and meet their needs."

The Syrian offensive appears aimed for now at securing a strategic highway in rebel-controlled territory, as opposed to an all-out campaign to retake the entire province, including the city of Idlib, the densely populated provincial capital.

Earlier this week, Syrian government troops took control of the former rebel town of Saraqeb, which is strategic because it sits on the intersection of two major highways. One of them leads to the capital, Damascus, to the north, and

another connects to the country's western and eastern regions.

Turkey, which backs the Syrian opposition and has been monitoring a cease-fire in the rebel enclave, has protested the government assault, calling it a violation of the truce it negotiated with Russia. In recent weeks, Ankara sent in troops and equipment to reinforce monitoring points it set up to observe a previous cease-fire, which has since crumbled, and also deployed forces around towns that are threatened by the Syrian advance.

Associated Press video

showed a long line of armored vehicles and trucks, some carrying tanks, filing into rebel-controlled rural areas of the province. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the war, said the new troops were deployed west of the town of Saraqeb. It was fifth known deployment of new troops into Syria over the last week, according to the Observatory and other opposition news outlets.

"It is shocking that civilians continue to bear the brunt of hostilities between all parties to the conflict," U.N. Human Rights spokeswoman Marta Hurtado said.

"It appears foreign powers are battling for territorial and political gains, while blatantly disregarding their obligation to protect civilians," she told reporters in Geneva.

Idlib and nearby rural Aleppo are the last rebel-held areas in Syria. They are home to more than 3 million people, most of them already displaced by violence.

Hundreds of thousands of people have been on the move in recent weeks, fleeing toward areas closer to the Turkish border. Many of them are being housed in temporary shelters.

Of the 580,000 people who have been displaced since Dec. 1, UNICEF estimated that about 300,000 of them are children. □

U.N. refugee agency: Major rise in migrants stopped off Libya

CAIRO (AP) — The U.N. refugee agency reported Friday that the total number of migrants intercepted by the Libyan coast guard in the past month rose 121% from the same period last year.

The UNHCR said in January alone, it registered 1,040 refugees and migrants the coast guard stopped and brought back to Libyan shores, a dramatic increase from the 469 rescued that month the year before. It classified the population as 70% men, 18% women and 12% children.

The relentless war in Libya has turned the country into a major conduit for migrants fleeing war and poverty in Africa and the Middle East.

In its attempts to stem the flow of migrants crossing the Mediterranean, the European Union has trained and funded Libya's coast guard to keep the migration crisis off its shores. The figures show these efforts have not stopped people from boarding boats and making the journey.

It's a contentious alliance. The coast guard catches and returns migrants to

Libya, where they often land in squalid detention centers, notorious for rape and torture at the hands of smugglers. Militias that conspire with coast guard units extort and abuse migrants for ransoms at compounds funded and ostensibly run by the U.N.

Last week, deadly clashes around the capital, Tripoli, compelled UNHCR to halt its operations at one of those jam-packed centers, known as the Gathering and Departure Facility. The agency reported it continues to evacuate migrants to "safer locations," adding

that over 300 had agreed to resettle into the "urban community" with aid packages. The Associated Press documented the dangerous and dehumanizing conditions at the facility last year.

After a pick-up truck packed with migrants crashed into a fuel tanker Thursday, killing six people and critically wounding 12, the International Organization for Migration warned of the urgent need to prosecute smugglers and traffickers in Libya.

"This incident is a stark reminder of the dangerous

journeys desperate people endure, many of whom are fleeing conflict and poverty," said Federico Soda, the agency director.

As a cease-fire in the war-torn country crumbles despite international diplomatic efforts, oil-rich Libya's economy is unraveling. Tribes loyal to eastern-based forces laying siege to Tripoli have shut down oil fields and production facilities, starving Libya of its main revenue source to gain political leverage. The National Oil Corporation on Friday put the losses at more than \$1 billion. □

Doctor's death unleashes mourning, fury at Chinese officials

By JOE McDONALD
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The death of a young doctor who was reprimanded for warning about China's new virus triggered an outpouring Friday of praise for him and fury that communist authorities put politics above public safety.

In death, Dr. Li Wenliang became the face of simmering anger at the ruling Communist Party's controls over information and complaints that officials lie about or hide disease outbreaks, chemical spills, dangerous consumer products or financial frauds.

The 34-year-old ophthalmologist died overnight at Wuhan Central Hospital, where he worked and likely contracted the virus while treating patients in the early days of the outbreak.

"A hero who released information about Wuhan's epidemic in the early stage, Dr. Li Wenliang is immortal," the China Center for Disease Control's chief scientist, Zeng Guang, wrote on the Sina Weibo microblog service.

Police in December had reprimanded eight doctors including Li for warning friends on social media

about the emerging threat. China's supreme court later criticized the police, but the ruling party also has tightened its grip on information about the outbreak.

Weibo users have left hundreds of thousands of messages below Li's last post. A post by one of Li's co-workers, an emergency room nurse, said the freezing Wuhan weather was "as gloomy as my mood."

"To you, we are angels and so strong. But how strong a heart can watch the people around me fall one by one without being shocked?" wrote Li Mengping on her verified account.

Others placed blame for the deaths on Chinese officials, not an animal species from where the virus might have spread, and said those who made trouble for the doctor should face consequences. The most pointed online comments were quickly deleted by censors.

The ruling party has faced similar accusations of bungling or thuggish behavior following previous disasters. They include the 2003 outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome, a 2005 chemical spill that disrupt-



A man wearing mask, attends a vigil for Chinese doctor Li Wenliang, in Hong Kong, Friday, Feb. 7, 2020.

Associated Press

ed water supplies to millions of people in China's northeast, sales of tainted milk that sickened thousands of children and the failure of private finance companies after the global economic crisis.

In each case, officials were accused of trying to conceal or delay release of information members of the public said they needed to protect themselves.

The party often responds by allowing the public to

vent temporarily, then uses its control of media and the internet to stifle criticism. Critics who persist can be jailed on vague charges of spreading rumors or making trouble.

On the streets of Beijing, the capital, residents expressed sadness and said that China should learn from Li. "He is such a nice person, but still didn't pull through," said Ning Yanqing. "Those left do not dare to speak out. Alas, I don't know what

to say."

Some online comments Friday hinted at broader dissatisfaction with the party and Chinese President Xi Jinping, who has tightened controls on society since taking power in 2012.

The most powerful Chinese leader since at least the 1980s, Xi gave himself the option of remaining president for life by changing the Chinese constitution in 2018 to remove a two-term limit. □

India to continue rebel peace accord push in troubled areas

GAUHATI, India (AP) — Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Friday his government will continue its peace push in insurgency-wracked northeastern India, where accords with key rebel groups have led to the surrender of thousands of fighters.

Modi said decades of violent insurrection ended in the Bodo tribal heartland in Assam state after the signing of a Jan. 27 agreement with the rebels.

He addressed hundreds of thousands of people, mostly Bodo tribespeople, while celebrating the signing of the peace accord Friday in Kokrajhar, a town 250 kilometers (150 miles) west of

Gauhati, the state capital. They included several hundred rebels from the National Democratic Front of Bodoland who turned out in their olive-green fatigues after surrendering to government forces at a ceremony on Jan. 30.

Leaders of the four factions that comprise the NDF welcomed the prime minister with traditional scarves on the dais, but they did not speak.

On Jan. 28, Gobinda Barumatary, one of the leaders who signed the accord, said that it would "bring peace after three decades. Since enough of autonomy is given to us as part of the accord, the de-

mand for a separate Bodo state is no longer necessary."

On Thursday, the Bodo tribespeople lit 70,000 oil lamps in their homes rejoicing in relief from long-simmering land and ethnic disputes in the region.

"I can understand your feelings when you decided to bid adieu to your guns, bombs and pistols and return to normal life. I will ensure that no thorn shall hurt you now in the road to peace," Modi said.

The government plans to provide technical skills to those who surrendered to take up jobs in the near future.

Dozens of rebel groups



National Democratic Front of Bodoland cadre shout slogans at an event to celebrate signing of a peace accord in Kokrajhar, a town 250 kilometers (150 miles) west of Gauhati, India, Friday, Feb. 7, 2020.

Associated Press

have been fighting the government and sometimes each other for years in seven states in northeast India. They demand greater regional autonomy or independent homelands for the indigenous groups they represent.

The rebels accuse the federal government of exploit-

ing the region's rich mineral resources but neglecting the local people.

Modi told the rally on Friday that insurgency was on the wane in the northeast and his government was trying to reach similar deals with insurgent groups mainly in Nagaland and Manipur states. □



Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, right, shakes hands with Venezuela's Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza upon arrival to the Foreign Ministry in Caracas, Venezuela, Friday, Feb. 7, 2020.

Associated Press

Russian foreign minister visits Venezuela, bolstering Maduro

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Russia's foreign minister visited Venezuela on Friday in a show of support for President Nicolás Maduro as U.S. vows of more pressure threaten to cut off the socialist leader from a key financial ally in Moscow. Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's stop in Caracas follows a trip by Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó to Washington, where officials in the Trump administration say they're preparing to escalate efforts to force out Maduro. The Russian diplomat urged the international community to back a "political and diplomatic" solution to Venezuela's troubles and denounced the U.S. campaign to oust Maduro with sanctions and other measures.

"Sadly, Venezuela's crisis is part of a grand campaign with the end goal of overthrowing the legitimate government," Lavrov said. "We consider this scenario unacceptable."

Even as Lavrov was in Caracas, the Trump administration unveiled fresh sanctions against a fleet of commercial planes belonging to the Venezuelan state-owned CONVIASA airlines.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Ste-

ven T. Mnuchin said in a statement that the "illegitimate Maduro regime" relies on the airline "to shuttle corrupt regime officials around the world to fuel support for its anti-democratic efforts," noting countries such as North Korea, Cuba and Iran.

U.S. officials said that the Trump administration will soon decide whether to impose penalties on Russia's powerful state oil company Rosneft, an important financial lifeline to Maduro. Guaidó has been embraced in Washington by Republicans and Democrats. His international tour also took him to Colombia, across Europe and to Canada, where he rallied support among world leaders. President Donald Trump reaffirmed his support for Guaidó, recognizing him this week in the State of the Union address as Venezuela's "true and legitimate" leader and calling Maduro a "tyrant." Trump next welcomed Guaidó to a coveted Oval Office meeting. The gesture bolstered Guaidó as support back home fades a year after he rose to the center of Venezuela's tumultuous political landscape, vowing to oust Maduro and end the oil-rich nation's political and

financial crisis. The U.S. and nearly 60 nations back Guaidó, saying Maduro claimed victory in fraudulent elections in 2018. Maduro remains in power with backing from the Venezuelan military and allies including Cuba, China and Turkey.

Russia and Venezuela have a political, military and economic alliance that was cemented years ago between President Vladimir Putin and the late-President Hugo Chávez, Maduro's predecessor. The Russians have provided the South American nation with substantial assistance, including an air defense system and help circumventing U.S. sanctions on their oil industry, but insist the extent of their support has been exaggerated by American officials.

Lavrov also met with Maduro and other Venezuelan officials to talk about cooperation in areas including energy, mining, agriculture, medicine and military-technical cooperation.

"It is important to develop our military technical cooperation to increase the defense capacity of our friends against outside threats," said Lavrov, adding that Maduro will travel to Moscow in May. □



In this photo provided by Mexico's Presidential Press Office, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador stands in front of an image of a raffle ticket featuring the presidential plane, in his morning press conference at the National Palace in Mexico City, Friday, Feb. 7, 2020.

Associated Press

Mexico won't really raffle off huge presidential jet

MEXICO CITY (AP) —

Mexicans will no longer have to worry about where to park a Boeing Dreamliner when the government raffles off the luxurious presidential jet: the air force will keep it. In fact, nobody will win the actual \$130 million Boeing 787 plane in the lottery-style raffle to be held in coming months.

Among the many desperate attempts to get rid of the expensive plane, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador had toyed with the idea of actually awarding the plane to the winner, along with a year's paid maintenance and parking. But López Obrador had worried that would cause problems for the winner, both because of the greed it could unleash among friends, relatives and acquaintances, and because the idea had been lampooned on social media, with people posting pictures of shacks or taco stands with a jetliner parked outside.

So the president announced Friday that the raffle will actually be symbolic, awarding total prize money of \$100 million, which lottery tickets state is "equivalent to the value of the presidential jet." One hundred winners will divide equal shares of the \$100 million pot.

"We did not want to award

a prize that would be a problem," López Obrador said. "You know, the memes, 'where would I park it?'"

Instead, he said, a cash prize winner would be free to use some of their winnings to rent the plane for a few trips, at the current hourly operating price of about \$13,500 per hour.

The latest scheme didn't convince Mexico City graphic designer Antonio Pérez, who had hoped the president could simply sell the white elephant, without hitting up Mexicans to buy lottery tickets.

"I agree with some of the president's initiatives, but on this one, specifically, I don't agree, because the ones who wind up paying for the plane are going to be the people of Mexico," said Pérez.

López Obrador had tried to sell it, but the plane failed to find a buyer after a year on sale at a U.S. airstrip, where it piled up about \$1.5 million in maintenance costs.

Novelist Eric Marváz agreed the whole thing seemed comic, but noted that at least the president was speaking directly to the people, and not trying to hide anything.

"I think it is quite a hilarious situation, but at least for the first time we're laughing, not crying," said Marváz. □

LOCAL



Azure Beach Residences The Villas: Your Own Beach Villa with a Backyard of Green Tranquility



EAGLE BEACH — Sometimes everything comes together. You're looking for this special family place while vacationing or you are a local resident who wishes a secure and comfortable house within a serviced residence to enjoy your retirement. You'd also like to make an investment that brings you a profit and at the same time you want to deal with a trustworthy and secure company. Azure Beach Residences has all of the above under one roof. New offering by the successful Pering Group: The Villas.

Developer Pering Group's quality is already visible with Azure Beach Residences (sold for 90 % already) at Eagle Beach and Harbour House Condominiums (sales going beyond expectations) in Oranjestad. Now their newest product is The Villas with the same formula: a quality product for a good price, a trustworthy developer and a prime location. Take a look at this hot opportunity: only six fantastic villas on the border of a bird sanctuary and opposite the white-sand Eagle Beach. The Villas are designed in modern architecture with panoramic windows where the green environment from the bird sanctuary (Bubali Plas) can flow freely inside. That is the feel you get with the Azure Villas. Just behind the condominium towers we have found this quiet space where you can have your family's second home or enjoy your well-deserved retirement. Big benefit: you will not only have a villa with four bedrooms and three bathrooms, but also an option for an annex that has one bedroom and one bathroom which can be rented out to cover your villa's expenses. Your own private pool is optional too.

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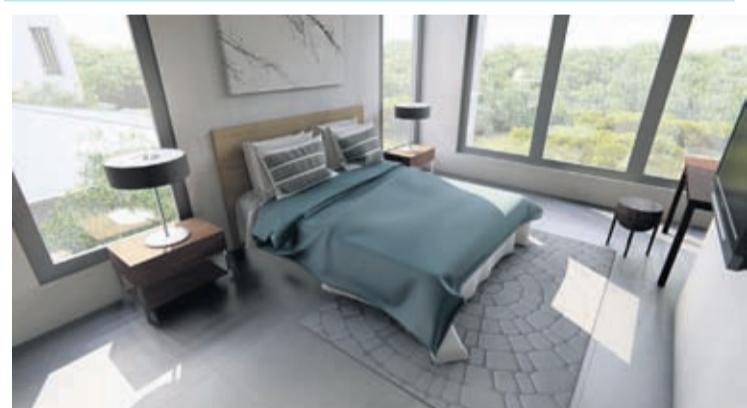
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Aruba Today's Columnist

ORANJESTAD — Aruba Today has five great columnists who contribute to our newspaper with their knowledge and creativity. Please let us introduce to you Steve, Shanella, Anthony, Thais and Joris. They would surely appreciate your comments on their columns. So, feel free to express yourself!



Creative Islander by Thais Franken

Thaïs G. Franken (24) is a recently graduated Aruban student at the University of Maastricht (UM). She obtained her graduate double Master of Science degree in Public Policy and Human Development in collaboration with the United Nations University Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT). Back home, on the beautiful island of Aruba, she completed her Bachelor of Arts in Organization, Governance & Management (OGM) at the University of Aruba (UA), where she successfully defended her thesis titled "Placing Culture and Creativity at the Heart of the Aruban Sustainable Development". It was precisely this research project that inspired the emergence of the "Creative Islander" column in 2018. Thaïs is very passionate about topics such as sustainability, innovation, culture, creativity, social entrepreneurship and their role in public management. Next to her academic interests, she enjoys reading, writing, dancing and cooking.

Creative Islander can be read every other Thursday in the local section. On Aruba Today's website you can find all published columns.

Island Insight by Anthony Croes of Etnia Nativa

Anthony Croes is an Etnia Nativa based artist at Westpunt, originally from Companashi. As a child, he demonstrated a natural interest and respect for his old world heritage as well as his natives' ancestor's history and their survival challenges. This same interest encouraged him to pursue anthropological studies as an academic call. For someone with such interest in cultural expressions it is no surprising that Aruba Today welcomed him as a columnist.

Island Insight can be read every Tuesday in the local section. On Aruba Today's website you can find all published columns.



Hotel Hustle by Shanella Pantophlet

Aruban born and bred Shanella Pantophlet is passionate about tourism. That is the world she studied and works in, so we might as well call her a specialist. Luckily for Aruba Today Shanella also loves to write. Together with the fact that the majority of our readers are tourists, we found ourselves a perfect combination for a column: Hotel Hustle. Hotel Hustle is published every other Monday in the local section. All the columns can be read also on our website.



Today's Catch by Joris Zandvoort

Dutch Joris Zantvoort is a writer at Fisherbooker.com. He writes a monthly fisher report for Aruba Today. The company works with 17 captains in Aruba that help him create this report containing information like: What is currently in the water? What can you catch? Amazing pictures are being shared and part of the column shows The Captain of The Month.

Today's Catch appears once in a month in the local section. Check out an overview of the columns on our website.



Today's Click by Steve Francees

Aruban born and bred Steve Francees has a passion for photography. Being a local photographer he knows the hidden gems of this island and captures them in an amazing way. As a Family and Landscape photographer Steve is ready to create your next 'vacation memories', morning and/or sunset shots.

Today's Click amazes you every other Monday in the local section. Check out the colorful images on our website under the tab Columns/Today's Click.



Happy Community Initiative

The Happy Community Initiative is a visitor charity program that you can help build Aruba's community strong by doing a donation to good causes. CEDE Aruba, a dynamic community foundation, and the Aruba Timeshare Association (ATSA) collaborate in this platform for visitors who would like to make a donation, but also volunteer in the future. Happy Community Initiative, is published bi-weekly, every Thursday in Aruba Today.

We invite you to go to our website www.arubatoday.com and read all columns. □

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Aruba to Me is..... Nos Dushi Aruba



ORANJESTAD – Aruba Today likes to welcome readers to participate in our newspaper. You can see that in our Honored Guest-publications, specials like on Valentine's Day and on other occasions. Throughout the year you are always welcome to send us your vacation picture(s) together with completing the sentence: Aruba to me is (Email: news@arubatoday.com)

For today's newspaper we received some great pictures from **Robin Bailey, Toronto, Canada**. He wrote:

Aruba to us is... Nos Dushi Aruba!

Aruba is the only choice when it comes to celebrating my 50th birthday! It really is like our second home. We have been coming to Aruba for over 25 years, and have developed a special connection with the island.



We love walking it's beautiful beaches and dining at the endless array of restaurants. There is so much to see and discover.

Although we have been to many other destinations, Aruba is unparalleled for its warm and welcoming people. We have formed many friendships over the years, and always look forward to our return to our Dushi Aruba!

Happy Birthday Robin from all of us at Aruba Today! ☺



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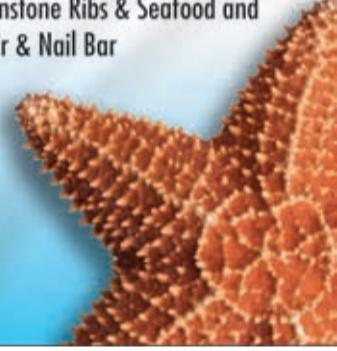
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The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island

PALM BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple **Ray & Deborah Peachey**, visiting Aruba for 25 years consecutively!

This wonderful couple stated that Aruba gives them the feel of being home. They also mentioned that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its safety and Aruba's warm and friendly people who became like family to them.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Playa Linda Beach Resort presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



SPORTS



In this Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020 photo, James "Buster" Douglas, the former world heavyweight champion, works with a student at the Thompson Community Center in Columbus, Ohio, where he teaches youth boxing.

Associated Press

30 years after Tyson fight, Buster Douglas is 'feeling good'

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Thirty years after his startling victory against boxing titan Mike Tyson, Buster Douglas is feeling healthy and basking in the glory he says he was denied at the time.

"Right now, everything is looking up," Douglas said in a recent Associated Press interview, noting he struggles with diabetes. "Feeling good and the numbers are good. It's a good thing."

The 59-year-old fighter will be celebrated at an anniversary gala Friday in his hometown of Columbus, Ohio, where he'll raise money for programs that help others who face seemingly insurmountable challenges. His stable of students throughout Columbus' parks and recreation system look up to the man they call simply "coach" as a teacher, friend and hero.

"I mean, I really look up to Mike Tyson, but I don't look up to him as much as Coach," said 11-year-old Colton Matson, who has worked with Douglas since he was 6.

Continued on page 22



Hellebuyck makes 35 saves to lead Jets over Blues 4-2

Winnipeg Jets goaltender Connor Hellebuyck (37) stops the puck during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the St. Louis Blues, Thursday Feb. 6, 2020, in St. Louis.

Associated Press
Page 20

Federer tops Nadal in South Africa & 51,000 turn up to watch

By GERALD IMRAY

Associated Press

Roger Federer wasn't going to lose this one to Rafael Nadal.

Not on what felt like a homecoming for Federer, who beat his great rival 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 in a three-set exhibition match at a soccer stadium in Cape Town, South Africa, on Friday.

It was Federer's first match in his mother's country of birth, and the country the Swiss great rates as his second home.

Almost everything was for Federer on the night. The caps and T-shirts with RF logos all across the crowd. The "Welcome home, Roger" signs being held up. The coin for the toss, a newly minted 20 Swiss Francs with Federer's image on it. Federer recently became the first living Swiss to be engraved on one of the nation's coins.

Even South Africa's biggest sports stars were in awe. Siya Kolisi, South Africa's Rugby World Cup-winning captain, came out pre-match to present Federer with a South Africa team jersey with Federer's name on the back. He was asked who he was supporting.

"Definitely Team Roger," Kolisi said. "Sorry, Nadal, I love you, too."

Nadal smiled graciously on the other side of the net.

The exhibition at Cape Town Stadium was to raise money for the Roger Federer Foundation, which supports early childhood



Rafael Nadal, left, jumps the net while Roger Federer watches on during their exhibition tennis match held at the Cape Town Stadium in Cape Town, South Africa, Friday Feb. 7, 2020.

Associated Press

education in six southern African countries, including South Africa. The foundation was hoping to top \$1 million from the exhibition. It raised \$3.5 million.

Also, a sellout crowd of 51,954 came to the Cape Town Stadium — built for the 2010 soccer World Cup — to watch Federer and Nadal turn it on. That's the biggest crowd ever on record for a tennis match. Organizers said the demand for tickets was in the region of 200,000 requests.

"It was a magical evening," said Federer, who came to South Africa regularly on childhood vacations with his family but hadn't been to Cape Town in 20 years.

The 38-year-old Federer, winner of a record 20 Grand Slam singles titles, and the 33-year-old Nadal, with 19 slams, laughed and joked regularly between points.

But they were typically competitive when the ball was in play.

Federer won the first point with a high backhand volley, and broke in the first game on the way to taking the opening set 6-4.

Nadal broke back twice at the start of the second set and unleashed his big forehand winners, grunting loudly in the process, to level at one-set-all.

Federer won with a dainty drop shot on match point.

Nadal gave everything to get there, and was going so fast he couldn't stop in time and had to leap over the net.

He ended up standing next to Federer and they hugged.

"We tried our best as always," Nadal said. "It's a lifetime experience playing in front of such an amazing crowd in an amazing stadium. It was a big pleasure for me to be part of it."

Ultimately, the match showed off the real friendship that lies beneath the fierce rivalry that began when Federer and Nadal played each other for the first time on tour at the Miami Open 16 years ago.

Federer also revealed that on the day of the exhibition, Nadal told him for the first time that he secretly cried for joy when Federer finally won the French Open in 2009.

Federer pulled in a couple of big-name friends alongside Nadal to help out on the night: Bill Gates and The Daily Show host Trevor Noah. Before the main match, Federer and Gates teamed up to beat Nadal and Noah 6-3 in a one-set doubles exhibition.

Microsoft co-founder Gates played one pinpoint lob volley that the announcer described as "the billionaire's touch."

Comedian Noah did plenty of good-natured trash talking. He shares a similar heritage to Federer. Both have Swiss fathers and South African mothers.

"Roger's at a disadvantage. We're both half-Swiss, half-South African, so I'm in his head. I know what he's going to do," Noah, who wore a pink shirt and black headband to match partner Nadal, said before the doubles match.

Nadal has a 14-10 advantage over Federer in finals, leads 10-4 in their meetings at Grand Slams, and 24-16 in their career matches. Five years younger, the Spaniard may well go past Federer's record of 20 Grand Slams. "I hope I can still play for a bit longer," Federer said. "We'll see how much more. But there's still lots to look forward to. □

Sagstrom has 1-stroke lead after 2 rounds at LPGA's Vic Open

BARWON HEADS, Australia (AP) — First-round leader Madelene Sagstrom held a one-stroke lead over American rival Ally McDonald after two rounds of the LPGA's Vic Open.

The tournament features male and female professionals playing in alternate groups over two courses at the 13th Beach Golf Links. Sagstrom shot a 5-under 67 on the Creek course Friday for a two-round total of 13-under 132. McDonald shot an 8-under 65 on the Beach course.

For the fifth consecutive round, Sagstrom was at the top of an LPGA leaderboard. The Swedish golfer was co-leader after the first round and two weeks ago held the lead after the last three rounds of the Gainbridge LPGA at Boca Rio, where she became a first-time tour winner. "I think when you come off such a high, you don't really know what to expect. Like, 'Can you keep it going or am I going to start over,' kind of thing," Sagstrom said. "I'm really happy that I put myself in the position that I'm in, and being able to keep up really good play, especially keeping it rolling really nice on the greens. If you roll it good, you need to make putts to be in contention." McDonald, a 2019 USA Solheim Cup team member, is bogey-free for the tournament, carding eight birdies in her first 12 holes on Friday before paring her way home.

"After I hit the ball really well yesterday, I was hoping to go out and make a lot of birdies and I did," McDon-

ald said. "I started the round 8-under through 12 and the wind kind of picked up. Just didn't have any really close looks at birdie in the last six holes, but very, very pleased with where I'm at." English veteran Laura Davies (77) trailed by two strokes after the first round but missed the cut along with Karrie Webb, whose 70 left her a shot behind Davies after an opening 75.

The field was cut to the leading 60 players plus ties for both men and women after the second round. A

second cut will be made after the third round to the leading 35 players plus ties for both men and women. In the men's tournament, Robin Sciot-Siegrist (64) took a two-stroke lead over Travis Smyth. Sciot-Siegrist had a two-round total of 14-under 130. The tournament is also sanctioned by the Australasian PGA men's tour and European Tour and the European and Australian women's tours. The third and fourth rounds will be played on the Beach course. □

Jason Day climbs within 2 of the lead at Pebble Beach

By DOUG FERGUSON

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)

— Jason Day received a warm reminder Friday at Pebble Beach how good it feels to hit shots the way he wants, make a bunch of putts and see his name high on the leaderboard. Day made two long birdie putts across the green, holed a 40-yard wedge for eagle on the dangerous par-5 14th, made a couple of big par saves and moved into contention with an 8-under 64 in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

He was two shots behind Nick Taylor of Canada, who birdied four of his last five holes at Pebble Beach for a 66 to take his first 36-hole lead on the PGA Tour. Taylor was at 14-under 129. "I feel like it's been a long time since I've actually been out there and felt the way that I felt out there today and played well like that," Day said.

Defending champion Phil Mickelson also got in the mix with a burst of four straight birdies after the turn at Monterey Peninsula. He made bogey on the long par-3 ninth to finish his round of 7-under. He was three shots behind.

Mickelson has not had a

top 10 on the PGA Tour since winning at Pebble Beach last year, though he finished third last week at the Saudi International and carried a little momentum into the event he has won five times.

Day knows the feeling. Since last year at Pebble, the former world No. 1 has recorded just three top 10s, none since last June. He has not seriously contended. His back troubles have been so frustrating that at times he wondered how much longer he wanted to play. He described those at "dark times."

His outlook Friday was as bright as the sunshine over the Monterey Peninsula, at least until a light marine layer or parts of the courses lowered the temperature.

Day birdied the par 5s and made a 45-foot putt from the fringe on the par-3 fifth at Pebble. He holed a 50-foot birdie putt on the par-3 12th, another bonus. And then he surged into contention by holing out for his eagle on the 14th, and following that with a 15-foot birdie on the 15th.

There's still one more round before this tournament played over three courses takes shape, and there's



Jason Day, of Australia, looks over the 18th green of the Pebble Beach Golf Links during the second round of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament Friday, Feb. 7, 2020, in Pebble Beach, Calif.

Associated Press

no better place to be in relative calm than Pebble Beach.

"If you have really good weather, you can go low at Pebble," Day said.

That's what Taylor did, making birdie on all the par 5s for his 66. Ditto for Chris Baker, the 33-year-old PGA Tour rookie who played Pebble Beach for the first time in a practice round Wednesday, and really had a blast in his round of

64 on Friday that put him four shots behind, along with Charl Schwartzel (66 at Pebble).

Of the top five players, only Mickelson was not at Pebble Beach.

Monterey Peninsula played about two shots under par, while Pebble's average was nearly 1 under. Spyglass Hill was nearly a stroke over par, so it was no surprise that only one player from the top 20 — Matt Every —

was at Spyglass on Friday. Dustin Johnson, a two-time Pebble Beach winner who finished runner-up to Ted Potter Jr. two years ago, appeared to be hitting his stride with great control of his irons and usual power off the tee. He lost a little ground on the final hole when he three-putted for bogey from about 25 feet on his final hole at Monterey Peninsula, missing a 3-footer. □

Once is enough: Els says he's done as Presidents Cup captain

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)

— Ernie Els brought big changes to the International team in the Presidents Cup, and then he added one more he wants to see. He doesn't think someone should be captain more than once.

Els tells the golf blog "Morning Read" that he will not return as captain for the 2021 matches.

"That's as good as I can do," Els said. "I gave it all. This is another change I wanted to make in our team. I get one opportunity, win or lose. You don't get a second chance."

The South African spent two years trying to make his International players — from countries from everywhere

outside Europe — feel more like a team. Among his biggest change was ditching the PGA Tour-branded flag and creating his own logo for the International team. It still lost to the Americans at Royal Melbourne in December, but the International team built an early lead and had a 10-8 advantage going into singles. The Americans, led by playing captain Tiger Woods, rallied to win.

The Americans now have an 11-1-1 lead in the Presidents Cup, having won the last eight times.

Els says he told his team on Sunday night after the matches he would not return. He met with PGA Tour Commissioner Jay

Monahan in January and was asked to reconsider. Els said he would decide after making his PGA Tour Champions debut in Hawaii, where he lost in a playoff. He chose not to do it next year.

"There is so much of me that wants to do it, but I know the hardest thing is to step away," Els told Morning Read. "I can understand why people become dictators. You can get hooked on that power."

The 2021 matches will be at Quail Hollow Club in North Carolina. Woods has not said if he is interested in returning. Among the vice captains for Els at Royal Melbourne were Trevor Immelman, Mike Weir and



South Africa's Ernie Els walks towards the first hole during the final round of the Saudi International at Royal Greens Golf and Country Club, Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020, in Red Sea resort of King Abdullah Economic City, Saudi Arabia.

Associated Press

Geoff Ogilvy. Weir would be an option for 2023, the next time the International team is host. The expected venue is Royal Montreal. The Presidents Cup has a history of repeating captains. Peter Thomson, Gary Player and Nick Price all

were captains for three matches, with Greg Norman doing it twice. For the Americans, Jack Nicklaus and Fred Couples each served three successive terms. An announcement of the next captains is expected in the spring. □

Vasilevskiy, Lightning win again, top Penguins 4-2

By The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Steven Stamkos and Nikita Kucherov scored, Andrei Vasilevskiy made 29 saves and the Tampa Bay Lightning beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 4-2 Thursday night. Vasilevskiy improved to 15-0-2 in his past 17 starts to set a franchise record for consecutive games without a regulation loss. Tampa Bay won its eighth consecutive game at home.

Mikhail Sergachev and Anthony Cirelli also scored for Tampa Bay, which has won 18 of its past 21 games. Stamkos and Kucherov each got their 25th goals of the season, with Kucherov scoring an empty-netter. Evgeni Malkin and John Marino scored for Pittsburgh. Matt Murray finished with 25 saves.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 7, PANTHERS 2

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Mark Stone scored two goals and had three assists, Marc-Andre Fleury recorded the 460th win of his career and Vegas topped Florida. Max Pacioretty scored two goals and had an assist, Nate Schmidt scored a goal and had an assist, and Shea Theodore and Jonathan Marchessault each also scored goals. Fleury stopped 23 shots to pass the New York Rangers' Henrik Lundqvist for sole possession of fifth place on the NHL all-time list for victories. Vincent Trocheck had a goal and an assist and Mike Hoffman also scored for the Panthers. Sergei Bobrovsky allowed six goals on 29 shots before being relieved by Sam Montembeault with 11:07 left in the third.

RED WINGS 4, SABRES 3, SO

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Dylan Larkin scored twice and converted one of Detroit's two shootout goals, and the Red Wings snapped a nine-game skid with a win over the Buffalo Sabres. Andreas Athanasiou sealed the victory by scoring on Detroit's second shootout opportunity after Jonathan Bernier stopped Jack Eichel and Sam Reinhart on Buffalo's first two attempts. Bernier finished with 29 saves



Tampa Bay Lightning goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy (88) covers up after a shot by Pittsburgh Penguins center Zach Aston-Reese (46) during the third period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

through overtime, and Tyler Bertuzzi also scored in a game during which the Red Wings rebounded after squandering a 2-0 third-period lead.

By improving to 1-8-1 their past 10 and winning for the first time since a 3-2 shootout victory at Ottawa on Jan. 10, the Red Wings avoided their second 10-game losing streak of the season. Detroit went 0-10-2 during a stretch spanning November and December. Detroit also ended a nine-game road losing streak dating to a 2-1 win at Montreal on Dec. 14.

The Sabres earned a point when Evan Rodrigues tied it at 3 with 47 seconds remaining.

DEVILS 5, FLYERS 0

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Mackenzie Blackwood stopped 46 shots for his second shutout of the season, and Miles Wood scored twice in New Jersey's victory.

Blake Coleman, Damon Severson and Pavel Zacha also scored for New Jersey. Blackwood also benefited from three shots that hit the post on his busy night.

The Devils chased Philadelphia goaltender Brian Elliott from the game early in the third period. Elliott allowed four goals on 16 shots before being replaced by Alex Lyon, who yielded Wood's second goal.

ISLANDERS 5, KINGS 3

NEW YORK (AP) — Rookie Kieffer Bellows scored his first two NHL goals to help the Islanders rally past the last-place Los Angeles Kings.

Anders Lee had a goal and an assist, and Michael Dal Colle and Matt Martin also scored as the Islanders recovered from a 3-1 deficit in the second period to get their third win in five games (3-0-2). Derick Brassard had two assists and Thomas Greiss stopped 22 shots. New York, splitting home games between the Nassau Coliseum and Barclays Center, improved to 6-0-3 in Brooklyn.

Ben Hutton had a goal and an assist, and Alex LaFallo and Trevor Lewis also scored for Los Angeles, which is last in the Western Conference and has lost eight of nine (1-7-1). Jonathan Quick finished with 28 saves and to fall to 1-9-1 in his last 11 starts.

CANADIENS 3, DUCKS 2, OT

MONTREAL (AP) — Jeff Petry scored 25 seconds into overtime to give the Canadiens the win over the Anaheim Ducks.

Nick Suzuki and Brendan Gallagher scored in regulation for the Canadiens, who have won six of their last eight games. Carey Price made 35 saves and improved to 4-7-1 in his career against Anaheim.

Jakob Silfverberg and Derek Grant scored for the Ducks, whose two-game winning streak ended. John Gibson stopped 24 shots in defeat.

Montreal improved to 12-14-4 on home ice.

Canadiens captain Shea Weber missed his first game of the season because of a lower-body injury. Christian Folin took his spot in the lineup.

WILD 4, CANUCKS 2

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Kevin Fiala and Brad Hunt each had a goal and an assist as part of Minnesota's three-goal first period and the Wild beat Vancouver.

Ryan Hartman and Zach Parise also scored for Minnesota. Alex Stalock stopped 24 shots to establish a career high with his 13th win of the season.

J.T. Miller and Antoine Roussel scored and Jacob Markstrom made 33 saves for Vancouver, which has played 10 of its last 13 on the road and finished a five-game trip 2-2-1.

AVALANCHE 4, SENATORS 1

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Cale Makar had a goal and an assist to lead Colorado to its fifth win in its last six games.

Valeri Nichushkin, Matt Nieto and J.T. Compher also scored for Colorado, which improved to 2-1-0 on its five-game road trip. Philipp Grubauer made 25 saves

to help the Avalanche win in Ottawa for the first time since Feb. 11, 2016.

Brady Tkachuk scored the lone goal for the Senators. Marcus Hogberg stopped 30 shots. Ottawa has just two wins since Dec. 23 (2-7-7) and is 1-5-5 in its last 11 on home ice.

JETS 4, BLUES 2

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Andrew Copp broke a third-period tie, Connor Hellebuyck made 35 saves for Winnipeg.

Patrik Laine, Jansen Harkins and Nikolaj Ehlers also scored for the Blues in the win.

Colton Parayko and Carl Gunnarsson scored for St. Louis, which had recorded a point in its previous 11 home games. Jordan Binnington stopped 21 shots for the Western Conference leaders.

HURRICANES 5, COYOTES 3

GLendale, Ariz. (AP) — Andrei Svechnikov and Sebastian Aho each scored two goals and had one assist to lead Carolina. Jaccob Slavin also scored and Trevor van Riemsdyk had two assists for the Hurricanes, who scored four straight goals and rallied from a 2-0 deficit for their fourth win in six games. James Reimer stopped 30 shots.

The Hurricanes moved into the second wild-card spot in the Eastern Conference. Alex Goligoski had a goal and assist, Conor Garland scored his team-high 19th and Christian Dvorak got his fifth goal in seven games for the Coyotes, who have lost six of seven. Arizona's streak of points at home ended at eight games.

PREDATORS 3, FLAMES 2

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Mikael Granlund had a goal and an assist to lead to lead the Nashville Predators over the Flames.

Dante Fabbro and Kyle Turris also scored for Nashville, which has won four of its last five to climb within one point of the Flames for the second wild-card spot in the Western Conference.

Sam Bennett and Rasmus Andersson had the goals for Calgary, which lost all three games on its homestand. □



In this Nov. 21, 2019 file photo, Oprah Winfrey speaks during the Celebration of the Life of Toni Morrison at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York.

Associated Press

Winfrey says King not doing well after social media backlash

NEW YORK (AP) — Oprah Winfrey says her friend Gayle King is facing death threats following a social media backlash caused by an interview with retired WNBA star Lisa Leslie that concerned the late Kobe Bryant.

On an appearance on "Hoda & Jenna & Friends" on Friday, Winfrey said King "is not doing well" and has to travel with security because of threats. "She feels very much attacked."

CBS released an excerpt to promote King's interview with Leslie. The clip, distributed online and on CBS News' social media accounts, focused on a portion of the interview where Leslie addressed a Colorado sexual assault case that had been brought against Bryant and dismissed. In the clip, King asks Leslie whether the 2003 case made Bryant's legacy complicated for her. Leslie said that it did not. Critics lashed out at King on social media for bringing up the old allegations. Actor, rap artist and television executive 50 Cent told The Associated Press he thought it was unfair because Bryant wasn't around to defend himself. Snoop Dogg posted a profane Twitter video that concluded with him urging King to back off "before we

come get you." The Twitter account belonging to imprisoned comedian Bill Cosby also was critical. King said in a video response via Twitter on Thursday that the clip was shared out of context and expressed anger at her network. "I am mortified, I am embarrassed and I'm very angry," King said. CBS later released a statement saying the clip "did not reflect the nature and tone" of the complete interview. Winfrey criticized what she called "misogynist vitriol" against King.

"I can see how people would obviously be very upset if you thought that Gayle was just trying to press to get an answer from Lisa Leslie," Winfrey continued. "Obviously all things pass, she will be OK, but she hasn't slept in two days." After the alleged victim decided not to pursue the case, she and Bryant reached a settlement in 2005. Bryant, who was 24 at the time of the Colorado incident, said he had not committed sexual assault. Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter Gianna, and seven other people were killed in a January helicopter crash in Southern California. A memorial will be held at the Staples Center in Los Angeles later this month. □



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo is fouled by Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid during the second half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020, in Milwaukee. The Bucks won 112-101.

Associated Press

Antetokounmpo scores 36, Bucks beat 76ers 112-101

By The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo had 36 points and 20 rebounds and the Milwaukee Bucks used a strong defensive effort to beat the Philadelphia 76ers 112-101 on Thursday night.

Antetokounmpo had 30-plus points and 15-plus rebounds for the fifth straight game and the 14th time this season.

The Bucks won for the 12th time in 13 games, avenging a lopsided Christmas Day loss to the 76ers in Philadelphia. The 76ers closed out an 0-4 road swing that also included losses to Atlanta, Boston and Miami.

Khris Middleton, limited to four points in the first half, finished with 20 points and seven rebounds, and point guard Eric Bledsoe added 14 points, eight rebounds and six assists.

76ers center Joel Embiid finished with 19 points and 11 rebounds but was frustrated most of the night and shot 6 of 26 from the field and 3 of 10 from 3-point range.

Tobias Harris led Philadelphia with 25 points, and Ben Simmons narrowly missed a triple-double with 11 points, 14 rebounds and nine assists.

PELICANS 125, BULLS 119

CHICAGO (AP) — Zion Williamson scored 21, JJ Redick added 18 points and New Orleans hung on to beat Chicago.

Williamson had nine points as New Orleans outscored Chicago 31-19 in the third quarter to break open the game. The Pelicans led by as many as 27 points and withstood a big run down the stretch by the Bulls' backups to come away with the win after back-to-back losses.

Redick hit three 3-pointers, and All-Star Brandon Ingram added 15 points and five assists before leaving with a sprained right ankle in the third.

Zach LaVine led Chicago with 22 points. Chandler Hutchison scored 16 points to go with eight rebounds, and Adam Mokoka added 15 points in the fourth quarter — the first points of his career.

KNICKS 105, MAGIC 103

NEW YORK (AP) — Julius Randle scored 22 points, Taj Gibson had 19 and New York beat Orlando for its third straight victory.

Despite trading leading scorer Marcus Morris to the Clippers earlier in the day, the Knicks rallied from 10 down in the fourth quarter

to match their longest winning streak of the season. Elfrid Payton had 15 points and nine assists for the Knicks, who got rookie RJ Barrett back after he missed nine games with a sprained right ankle. He finished with 12 points.

Nikola Vucevic had 25 points and eight rebounds for the Magic, who lost for the seventh time in eight games. Coach Steve Clifford was trying desperately to get a timeout on their final possession, but nobody on the court saw him and the Magic couldn't get a shot off. Clifford screamed at the officials after the game and had to be held back by Orlando assistant coaches.

TRAIL BLAZERS 125, SPURS 117

PORTRLAND, Ore. (AP) — Damian Lillard had 26 points and 10 assists, Hassan Whiteside had 17 points and tied a season-high with 23 rebounds, and Portland beat San Antonio.

The Blazers got a major boost off their bench from Gary Trent Jr., who scored 18 points. Trent's points late were important as he hit four 3-pointers and scored 12 points in the fourth quarter as Portland rallied from a 92-86 deficit. □

Mendoza has new roles with ESPN, resigns as Mets adviser

By JOE REEDY

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jessica Mendoza will no longer be on ESPN's "Sunday Night Baseball" or work for the New York Mets front office after signing a contract extension with the network. ESPN announced Friday that Mendoza will be an analyst on weekday games as well as making appearances on various network shows, including "SportsCenter" and "Baseball Tonight."

Mendoza's increased appearances on ESPN have led her to resign as a baseball operations adviser to the Mets and general manager Brodie Van Wagenen. She was hired as a Mets adviser last March.

Mendoza joined ESPN as a softball analyst and college football sideline reporter in 2007. She has been an MLB analyst since 2015 and was part of the "Sunday Night Baseball" booth for four seasons. Her roles with the network and the Mets had been under discussion since the end of last sea-



In this May 29, 2009, file photo, USA softball player Jessica Mendoza poses for a photo in the ESPN broadcast booth at the Women's College World Series in Oklahoma City.

Associated Press

son.

"I've always prioritized my growth and these new opportunities will allow me to expand my broadcasting career while challenging me at the same time," Mendoza said in a statement. "Some of the best memories of my career have been with "Sunday Night Baseball" and I will miss my time with our amazing crew, who have been like

family."

Mendoza's dual roles had drawn attention and caused friction. The Los Angeles Dodgers banned her from their clubhouse last year once during the season and once during the postseason because of her position with the Mets. She also drew attention last month for saying on an ESPN show that pitcher Mike Fiers should have

gone to Major League Baseball before he told a journalist that the Houston Astros had been using a camera to steal signs.

Commissioner Rob Manfred said during this week's owners meetings that he was not comfortable with Mendoza and former Boston Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez being both team employees and broadcasters.

"It's a topic that remains under discussion internally," he said. "It caused a lot of complications, not just on this particular incident or comments, but in general." Van Wagenen said in a statement that the team supported Mendoza's need to devote herself full-time to broadcasting.

"We have such respect and value her baseball insight and know her impact on the game of baseball is just beginning," he said.

As part of her new role, Mendoza will be the lone analyst on a package of weeknight games as well as being in the booth for

ESPN Radio's coverage of the World Series and post-season games. Additionally, Mendoza will be making plenty of studio appearances on "SportsCenter," "Baseball Tonight" and other ESPN studio shows as well as doing features on "E:60." Mendoza, who was inducted into the National Softball Hall of Fame last year, will continue as a lead analyst during ESPN's coverage of the Women's College World Series as well as reporting from the Tokyo Olympics. She was a four-time, first-team All-American at Stanford, and won gold (2004) and silver (2012) medals with the U.S. at the Olympics. She also signed a multi-year extension with ESPN in December 2018.

"We are proud that Jessica, one of our most talented and recognizable commentators, will continue blazing new trails with ESPN for several years to come," said Norby Williamson, ESPN's executive vice president for production. □



In this Feb. 11, 1990, file photo, James Douglas, left, follows with a left, dropping Mike Tyson to the canvas in the 10th round of scheduled 12-round heavyweight champion bout at the Tokyo Dome in Tokyo.

Associated Press

Continued from page 17

"Really, Mike Tyson was the second-most greatest boxer in the world still to this day. It's crazy that Coach, like, just beat him," he said. "It might have just been luck, but I can tell you that Coach worked hard for it even if it was luck."

Tyson was the reigning undisputed heavyweight champion of the world, and a frightening opponent to boot, when he entered the ring against James "Buster"

Douglas on Feb. 11, 1990, in Tokyo. Only one Las Vegas bookie — whether brave or stupid — would set odds on the fight: 42 to 1.

Douglas won, stunning the sports world. But what followed was anything but a celebration.

Tyson and fight promoter Don King challenged Douglas' victory, claiming Douglas had gone down first in the fight but been given more time than allowed to get up. Doug-

las' victory was ultimately upheld, but not before months of drama and expensive litigation.

"Don came at me with a vengeance and I was subpoenaed everywhere I went to," Douglas said. "It made it very uncomfortable and kind of took the 'f' out of fun."

A message was left at a phone number for King. Tyson didn't respond to an interview request. He told late-night talk show host Jimmy Kimmel in 2015 that it was "Buster's anniversary" to celebrate, not his. Tyson said the loss was a positive for him in the end, allowing him to learn how to "overcome adversity." The two have barely crossed paths since the fight.

The dispute over the fight's outcome — combined with lingering grief over his mother's death shortly before the fight — sent Douglas into a slump, he said.

"Believe it or not, I was where I really didn't care about anything," he recalled. "Something I always looked forward to becom-

ing one day and then you get it and it turns into a nightmare really quick."

Douglas said he was almost relieved when Evander Holyfield knocked him out in the third round of their match-up a little over eight months later, taking the title.

"It was a relief and then it was upsetting, too, because of how it all came to an end," Douglas said.

A short reign, with a long legacy. The fight is still remembered as one of the most spectacular upsets in sports history. Douglas' story gained new attention with the 2018 release of an ESPN documentary, titled "42 to 1" after the odds against Douglas.

Douglas has given his charity effort the same name and formed an ongoing strategic partnership aimed at delivering several programs focused on workforce development, diversity and soft skills training to at-risk youth.

He said working with kids is one of his favorite things to do.

Inside a training ring at Columbus' Thompson Community Center, Douglas towers over most of his students, chanting, "Left, right, left, right, left, left" as they punch away at the pads on he wears on his hands in place of gloves.

He said he gave up on his life and health for a period after the fight. In 1996, he woke up in a hospital on death's door. Again, life presented him a mountain to overcome.

"A light bulb came on. It was either get back into life or cash it on in," he said. "I decided to get back into life."

He staged a six-fight comeback before retiring from boxing in 1999, then launched into his work with the city of Columbus.

Students say he's kind, tough, generous and "very genuine." It's all enhanced by what he accomplished in 1990.

"It really inspires me that he beat the best boxer in the world back then," Matson said, "and I just think that's awesome." □

"Boys of Summer" author Roger Kahn dies at 92

MAMARONECK, N.Y. (AP)

— Roger Kahn, the writer who wove memoir and baseball and touched millions of readers through his romantic account of the Brooklyn Dodgers in "The Boys of Summer," has died. He was 92.

Son Gordon Kahn said his father died Thursday at a nursing facility in Mamaroneck.

The author of 20 books and hundreds of articles, Kahn was best known for the 1972 best-seller that looked at his relationship with his father through their shared love of the Dodgers, an object of nostalgia for the many fans who mourned the team's move to Los Angeles after the 1957 season. "At a point in life when one is through with boyhood, but has not yet discovered how to be a man, it was my fortune to travel with the most marvelously appealing of teams," Kahn wrote.

"The Boys of Summer" was a story of lost youth, right down to its title, later borrowed for a hit Don Henley song about a man longing for his past. Kahn's book moved back and forth between the early 1950s, when he covered the Dodgers for the New York Herald Tribune, and 20 years later, when some were ailing (Jackie Robinson), embittered (Carl Furillo) or in a wheelchair (Roy Campanella).

The book was an instant hit, although Kahn was criticized for sentimentalizing his story.

"Here is a book that succeeded for me despite al-



In this June 24, 1982, file photo, author Roger Kahn, right, joins former Brooklyn Dodger outfielder Duke Snider, center, and former Dodger pitcher, Clem Labine, at the start of production on the television film based on Kahn's best selling book, "The Boys of Summer," in New York.

Associated Press

most everything about it," wrote Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, a late book critic for The New York Times. Kahn began his prolific career in 1948 as a copy boy for the Tribune, and soon became a baseball writer, working under famed sports editor Stanley Woodward. He recalled Woodward as "a wonder" who once cured a writer of using the cliche "spine-tingling" by telling him to "go out in the bleachers and ask every one of those fans if his spine actually tingled."

He started writing about the Dodgers in 1952, and by age 26 was the newspaper's prominent sports reporter, earning a salary of \$10,000, and also covering the city's other teams, the

Giants and the Yankees. In 1956, he was named sports editor at Newsweek magazine, and served at the Saturday Evening Post from 1963 to 1969 as editor at large. He also wrote for Esquire, Time and Sports Illustrated.

Kahn's sports writing often incorporated social issues, particularly race. He wrote at length about Robinson and his struggles in breaking baseball's color line, and the two formed a long friendship.

"By applauding Robinson, a man did not feel that he was taking a stand on school integration, or on open housing. But for an instant he had accepted Robinson simply as a hometown ball player," Kahn

once wrote. "To disregard color, even for an instant, is to step away from the old prejudices, the old hatred. That is not a path on which many double back."

When Kahn was inducted into the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 2006, baseball Commissioner Bud Selig called him "an icon of our game." Among Kahn's other sports books: 2004's "October Men: Reggie Jackson, George Steinbrenner, Billy Martin, and the Yankees' Miraculous Finish in 1978," 1986's "Joe and Marilyn: A Memory of Love," and 1999's "A Flame of Pure Fire: Jack Dempsey and the Roaring '20s."

One book caused lasting embarrassment: Kahn collaborated with Pete

Rose on the 1989 authorized autobiography "Pete Rose: My Story." Rose, the major league's all-time hits leader, had recently been barred from baseball for betting on games and the book featured his insistence that the allegations were untrue. But Rose acknowledged years later, in a subsequent memoir, that he did gamble. Kahn said his "first reaction was to reach for the barf bag."

"I regret I ever got involved in the book," Kahn told the Los Angeles Times in 2007. "It turns out that Pete Rose was the Vietnam of ballplayers. He once told me he was the best ambassador baseball ever had. I've thought about that and wondered why we haven't sent him to Iran."

Kahn also wrote two novels and two nonfiction books not related to sports: 1968's "The Passionate People: What it Means to be a Jew in America," and 1970's "The Battle for Morningside Heights: Why Students Rebel." He maintained a friendship with the poet Robert Frost, whom he profiled in the Saturday Evening Post. He later taught writing at several colleges and lectured at Yale, Princeton and Columbia universities and in 2004, he served a one-semester fellowship as the Ottawa Endowed Professor of Journalism at the State University of New York in New Paltz. Kahn was born in Brooklyn on Oct. 31, 1927, and inherited his love of baseball from his father, who played third base for City College. □

NYCFC revives plan for soccer field near Yankee Stadium

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Soccer's New York City team and the Yankees have revived plans for a 25,000-seat soccer stadium near the baseball park in the Bronx, seven years after a proposal fell through.

New York City's Economic Development Corp. said Friday it is attempting to put together a deal that would include a soccer stadium built on the site of

current parking lots along what was the first-base side of old Yankee Stadium. The old ballpark was torn down in 2009 and replaced by parkland to make up for park space used for the new Yankee Stadium, just to the north.

The project would include land currently occupied by a factory and a ramp to the Major Deegan Expressway.

Madd Equities would partner in the project, which envisions a hotel, affordable housing, a school and retail.

Bondholders of the parking lots, which have performed poorly, also are part of the deal, which would cut parking spaces from 9,300 to about 6,300.

The project, first reported by The New York Times, would be subject to the of-

ten long review process. "A deal has not been reached and more conversations are needed," the EDC said in a statement.

"We are hopeful for a future where these lots can better serve the community. The first step towards achieving that is engaging the community on their needs and vision for this area."

NYC is majority owned by City Football Group, a

company controlled by of Abu Dhabi United Group, owned by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The Yankees are a 20% partner in NYCFC. City Football Group also is the parent of England's Manchester City. NYC has played at Yankee Stadium since taking the field as an expansion franchise in 2015, and many seats are far from the soccer field. □

No handshakes at meet and greet? Tech show adapts to virus

By KELVIN CHAN

LONDON (AP) — A major European technology trade fair has a low-tech idea for reducing virus risks: go hands-free.

Organizers of this month's Mobile World Congress show are advising attendees to adopt a no-handshake policy, threatening to dampen visiting executives' ability to meet and schmooze customers. Show organizers also plan to step up cleaning and disinfecting and make sure speakers don't use the same microphone. Some companies, meanwhile, are pulling out or scaling back plans.

MWC is an important networking and lobbying opportunity for mobile industry executives and government officials from around the world. It's the world's biggest wireless industry trade fair, held in Barcelona, Spain, on the other side of the globe from the virus outbreak's Chinese epicenter.

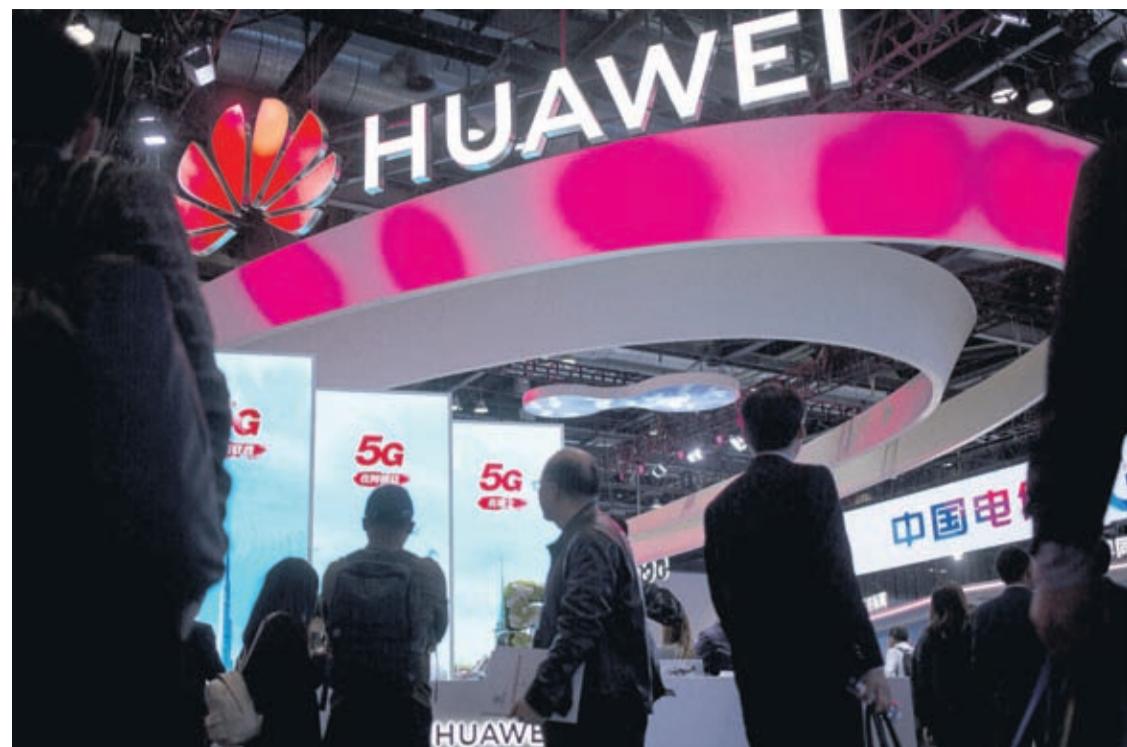
More than 100,000 people were expected to attend this year, with about 6%

from China. The coronavirus has now infected more than 31,400 people globally and killed more than 630, most of them in China.

The latest turmoil for MWC came Friday when Sweden's Ericsson, a major supplier of telecom infrastructure gear, said it was pulling out of the Feb. 24-27 event because it feared the health and safety of employees and customers "cannot be ensured." While there's little sign of a mass exodus in the works, the departure of Ericsson is a blow to the show because it's one of the biggest exhibitors.

South Korean tech company LG also withdrew earlier in the week.

Other companies are adjusting or scaling back their plans to adapt to travel and quarantine measures. The Chinese tech giant Huawei, a major sponsor, is assigning European staff to the show. Eric Xu, serving a six-month term as rotating chairman, is scheduled to hold a media briefing by video because he's un-



In this Oct. 31, 2019, file photo, attendees walk past a display for 5G services from Chinese technology firm Huawei at the PT Expo in Beijing.

Associated Press

able to get to Spain with enough time to undergo the two-week self-quarantine period.

Jean-Baptiste Su, principal analyst at Atherton Research in San Jose, California, said he's decided not to attend because of virus worries.

"I just didn't want to take a chance," he said. "'It's that bad."

Su said many participants were coming from China, and "we don't know much about how the transmission of the virus works." He add-

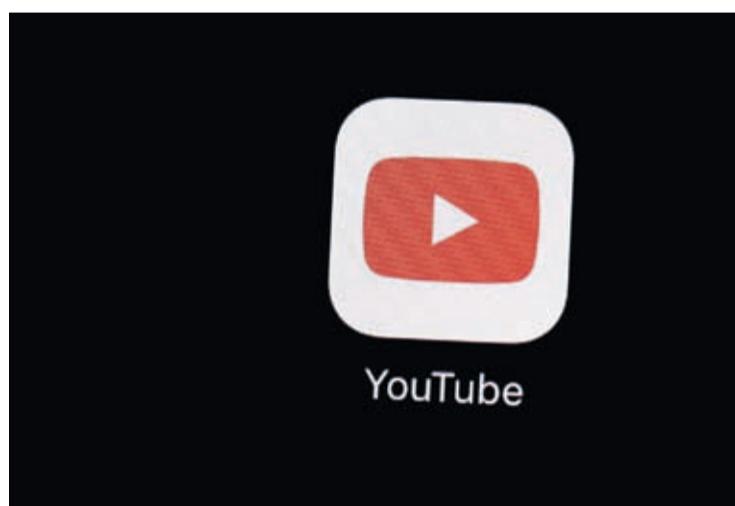
ed that people he knows at big Silicon Valley companies are "on the fence" about attending, and their employers say it's OK if they don't want to.

Ericsson said it decided to withdraw after "an extensive internal risk assessment."

"Ericsson has thousands of visitors in its hall each day and even if the risk is low, the company cannot guarantee the health and safety of its employees and visitors," the company said. Dropping out might affect

Ericsson's business, though the damage would be limited, said Richard Fogg, CEO of tech-focused public relations agency CC-group who has attended Mobile World for 17 years. More important is the signal it sends.

"Ericsson could be the start of a domino rally," Fogg said. "It gives smaller vendors permission to potentially pull from attending." However, he said there was not much discussion among his clients yet of the virus. □



This March 20, 2018 file photo shows the YouTube app on an iPad in Baltimore.

Associated Press

By MATT O'BRIEN
AP Technology Writer

Facebook joined YouTube, Twitter and payment service Venmo on Wednesday in demanding that a facial recognition company stop harvesting user images to identify the people in them, which the startup does as part of its work with

police.

Facebook said it has demanded New York-based Clearview AI stop accessing or using information from its flagship site and Instagram.

"Scraping people's information violates our policies," a company spokesman said. Clearview has drawn scru-

Facebook, YouTube: Firm must stop scraping faces from sites

tiny following investigative reports in January by the New York Times and Buzzfeed detailing its work with law enforcement agencies and its practice of scraping social media and other internet platforms for images.

Venmo on Wednesday said it is sending Clearview a cease-and-desist letter.

"Scraping Venmo is a violation of our terms of service and we actively work to limit and block activity that violates these policies," said Venmo spokesman Justin Higgs, who said the PayPal-owned mobile payment service is in the process of sending the letter.

Google-owned video service YouTube sent a similar

letter to Clearview on Tuesday.

"YouTube's Terms of Service explicitly forbid collecting data that can be used to identify a person," YouTube spokesman Alex Joseph said in a statement Wednesday. "Clearview has publicly admitted to doing exactly that, and in response we sent them a cease and desist letter."

Clearview CEO Hoan Ton-That told CBS in an interview that it has a First Amendment right to the roughly 3 billion images it has collected.

"The way we have built our system is to only take publicly available information and index it that way," he told CBS. □

He also said the technology is only used by law enforcement to identify potential criminals.

CBS was first to report the YouTube letter Wednesday. Twitter sent a similar letter in January and ordered Clearview to delete all the data it has collected from Twitter, including anything already shared with third parties. Microsoft-owned LinkedIn said Wednesday it is also looking into it and will take "appropriate action" if Clearview violated its terms. Clearview attorney Tor Ekeland said in a statement Wednesday that the company's technology "operates much in the same way as Google's search engine." □

Healthy U.S. job market: How big a political edge for Trump?

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. hiring jumped last month, and many more people were encouraged to look for work, showing that the economy remains robust despite threats from China's viral outbreak, an ongoing trade war and struggles at Boeing.

The strong job growth gives President Donald Trump more evidence for his assertion that the economy is flourishing under his watch. It may also complicate the argument his Democratic presidential rivals are making that the economy isn't benefiting everyday Americans.

The Labor Department said Friday that employers added a robust 225,000 jobs in January. At the same time, a half-million Americans, feeling better about their job prospects, streamed into the job market. Most found jobs. But those that didn't were newly counted as unemployed, and their numbers raised the jobless rate to 3.6% from December's half-century low of 3.5%.

Seven Democratic presidential candidates were to debate later Friday in New Hampshire. Leading contenders, notably Sens. Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, have built campaigns around the argument that the middle class has been mostly left out of

an economic expansion that has disproportionately served the wealthy.

The outcome of the presidential race could hinge in part on whether enough voters agree that inequality and rising costs for services such as health care, housing and college education outweigh the benefits from nearly 11 years of economic growth.

"Democratic primary voters are very open to messages about the economy doing badly," said Jason Furman, a top economic adviser to former President Barack Obama, said.

Furman added, though, "I don't know that that would be consistent for the electorate as a whole."

As the election intensifies, views of the economy remain broadly polarized. According to a Pew Research Center survey released Friday, 81% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents say the economy is excellent or good. Only 39% of Democrats and those leaning Democratic say so.

The public overall, Pew notes, holds a more positive view of the economy than at any point in the past 20 years. Fifty-seven percent say they think it is excellent or good, up from 32% in 2016.

Trump and his team can point to several positive



In this Oct. 1, 2019, file photo, Gory Rodriguez, of Starbucks, right, interviews a job applicant during a job fair at Dolphin Mall in Miami.

Associated Press

trends in Friday's jobs report, though his Democratic opponents can cite some evidence for their contrasting views, too.

Robust hiring has picked up from earlier this year, when the trade war with China raged, and is helping remedy one of the economy's key weaknesses: Even as the unemployment rate fell from a peak of 10% in 2009, millions of Americans were discouraged about finding a job and stopped looking for one. Some returned to school or stayed home to care for relatives.

Yet that trend has nearly reversed itself since 2016.

The proportion of Americans in their prime working years — ages 25 through 54 — who either have a job or are looking for one has reached its highest point since September 2008, just before the recession intensified. Economists typically focus on the prime-age population because it filters out the effects of retirement among the vast baby boomer generation.

Trump officials are also stressing that the job market is now benefiting a wider range of demographic groups.

"We have seen Hispanics, African Americans, Asians,

young people, women — all ... are either at their all-time employment lows or very nearly so," Larry Kudlow, the White House's top economic adviser, said Friday.

Trump has also been touting a "blue collar boom," though the evidence for that is mixed. Manufacturers lost jobs in January for the third time in four months. The employment report shows that if there is such a boom, it is among construction and transportation and warehouse workers, who accounted for nearly one-third of last month's hiring. □

Holiday on plastic: U.S. credit card debt surged in December

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans gave their credit cards a real workout this past holiday season.

The Federal Reserve said Friday that borrowing on credit cards rose by the largest amount in more than two decades in December.

Total U.S. consumer borrowing rose \$22.1 billion in December, the central bank said. That was the biggest gain since July and nearly double the \$11.8 billion increase in November.

The overall December surge was led by a \$12.6 billion increase in the category that includes credit cards. It was the biggest one-month gain in credit card debt since a \$19.5 billion increase in April 1998. December's jump came after a \$2.9 billion decline in credit card borrowing in November.

The surge in credit card borrowing in December was another sign that retailers had a good holiday shopping season, although a growing share of those

purchases are going to on-line retailers rather than brick-and-mortar stores.

Borrowing in the category that covers auto loans and student loans was up \$9.4 billion in December, down from a \$14.7 billion gain in November.

Consumer borrowing is closely watched for signals it can provide about Americans' willingness to take on debt to finance consumer spending, which accounts for 70% of U.S. economic activity.

The overall increase of



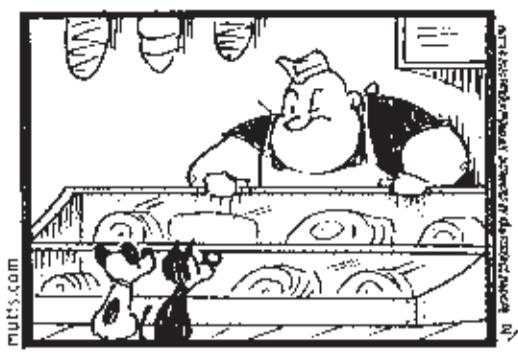
In this Feb. 20, 2019, file photo are Mastercard and Visa credit cards in Zelienople, Pa.

Associated Press

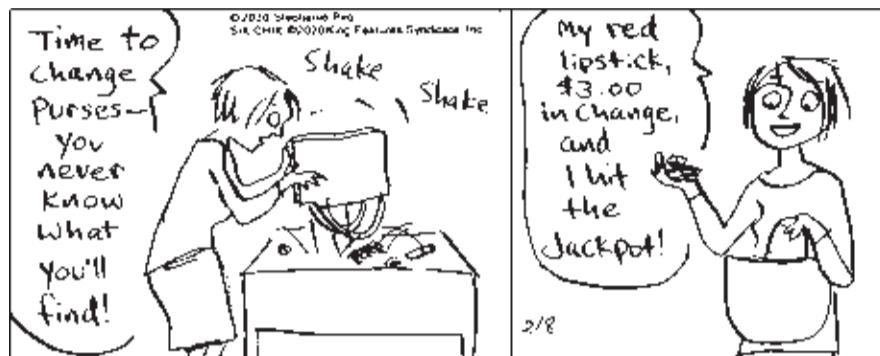
\$22.1 billion pushed consumer credit to a record of \$1.1 trillion. The Fed's monthly credit report does

not cover home mortgages or other debt secured by real estate such as home equity loans. □

Mutts



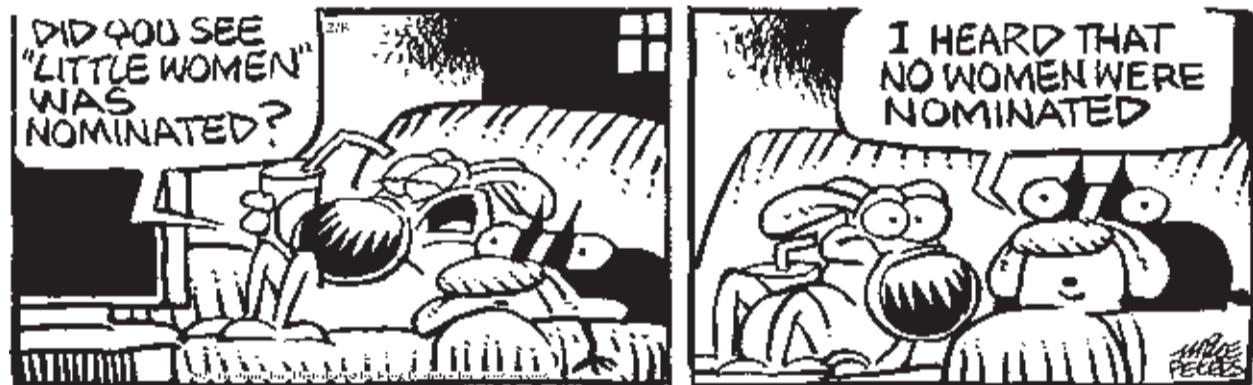
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

6			1		5									
7				5										
3	6			9	4									8
			1			4								
							7							
							2							1
			7	2			5	3						
			5			4								

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

8	1	6	5	4	9	2	3	7						
3	9	4	7	1	2	5	8	6						
7	5	2	8	3	6	1	9	4						
1	3	8	9	5	4	7	6	2						
9	2	5	3	6	7	4	1	8						
4	6	7	2	8	1	3	5	9						
6	8	1	4	7	3	9	2	5						
5	4	9	1	2	8	6	7	3						
2	7	3	6	9	5	8	4	1						

Yesterday's puzzle answer



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

Friday's Puzzle Solved

STAY	GTOP	PLAN
TABOO	RIOT	LAME
AMOUR	IMPUDENCE	
TOM GAP	BENDER	
I RATE	BAT	
CANINE	POLYPS	
ADAMS	SPURS	RED
RIBS	SCORN	KENO
LOL	SHAPE	DAFOE
SEPTUM	EATERS	
LID	SAHER	
OFF AND	TUG	EBB
DILIGENCE	ERNIE	
DRAT	RUSE	ROCKS
SETS	SNIP	BEES

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40	Evergreens	49	AI	with:
41	Remove from office	50	Pace location	
52	Strong connection			
53	Finds a role			
54	Disabled cars need			
55	Be sorry for backish network			



This 1948 police booking photo courtesy of Weber State University, Special Collections, shows Rossette Davie, also known as Rose Davie.

Associated Press

Notorious Utah brothel owner's interview eludes historians

OGDEN, Utah (AP)— Scholars at a Utah university are trying to unlock a mystery after discovering a nearly 70-year-old transcript of an interview with a notorious brothel owner that is written in a shorthand style that few people can read today.

The interview was with madam Rossette Duccinni Davie, who ran the Rose Rooms brothel in Ogden with her husband in the 1940s and 1950s. Today, the location is home to the nightclub Alleged, the Standard-Examiner reported. Another theory holds that they paid a sheriff to look the other way, Langdon said. □

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*WK. 51 OV \$39k
*WK 52 OV \$49k
* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

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GV \$5k OV \$7k
3BEDRM \$13k

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2B OF \$26k
1B OV \$9k
** Destination points \$8 per point

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Scientists dive into 'Midnight Zone' to study dark ocean

By JAMES BROOKS

Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) —

A team of scientists is preparing to dive deep into the depths of the Indian Ocean — into a "Midnight Zone" where light barely reaches but life still thrives. Scientists from the British-led Nekton Mission plan to survey wildlife and gauge the effects of climate change in the unexplored area. Working with the Seychelles and Maldives governments, the five-week expedition is targeting seamounts — vast underwater mountains that rise thousands of meters from the sea floor.

To explore such inhospitable depths, Nekton scientists will board one of the world's most advanced submersibles, called "Limiting Factor."

"What we do know is that beneath 1,000 meters (3,280 feet), there's no light down there, but a lot of animals ... are bioluminescent. It's life that glows," says Nekton mission director Oliver Steeds.

"The area that we're going to be researching, it's one of the most bio-diverse parts of the world's oceans.



In this handout photo taken in Jan. 2020 and provided by Nekton, a diver lies on top of "Limiting Factor" submarine in the Mediterranean Sea, part of sea trials before the next stage of the Nekton Mission begins in mid-March.

Associated Press

So what we're going to find there is unknown," Steeds recently told The Associated Press in Barcelona, Spain, before sea trials for the submersible and its mother ship.

The AP will be covering the expedition exclusively from start to finish.

Last August, the "Limiting Factor" completed the Five

Deeps Expedition, diving to the deepest point in each of the world's five oceans. The deepest was almost 11,000 meters (36,000 feet) down — deeper than Mount Everest is tall.

To withstand such crushing pressures, the sub's two-person crew compartment is wrapped in a nine-centimeter (3.5-inch) titanium

cocoon. It also carries up to 96 hours' worth of emergency oxygen.

"There are only five vehicles in the world that can get below 6,000 meters (19,685 feet), and only one that can get to the bottom half," said expedition leader Rob McCallum. "So everything we do is new. Everything we see is virtu-

ally a new discovery."

Using sampling, sensor and mapping technology, scientists expect to identify new species and towering seamounts, as well as observe man-made impacts, such as climate change and plastic pollution.

Last May, when "Limiting Factor" descended to the bottom of the Pacific Ocean's Mariana Trench, the ocean's deepest point, its pilot spotted a plastic bag.

"When we actually think of the living space on the planet for species, over 90% of that living space is in the ocean and most of that ocean is unexplored," says Dan Laffoley, a marine expert for the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

"So it's absolutely critical, at this time when we see such large changes occurring, that we get people down there, we get eyes in the ocean and we see what's happening," he said.

Scientists will combine their observations with those conducted last year during a seven-week Indian Ocean mission. They plan to present their findings in 2022. □



In this Sunday, Dec. 22, 2019 photo made available by NASA, Boeing, NASA, and U.S. Army personnel work around the Boeing Starliner spacecraft shortly after it landed in White Sands, N.M.

Associated Press

Defective software could have doomed Boeing's crew capsule

By MARCIA DUNN

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Defective software could have doomed Boeing's crew capsule during its first test flight that ended up being cut short late last year, NASA said Friday.

The Starliner capsule launched without astronauts in December, but its automatic timer was off by 11 hours, preventing the capsule from flying to the International Space Station as planned.

In addition, a software problem with the Starliner's service module was not detected until the flight was underway, according to NASA. That would have interfered with the separation of the service module

before touchdown.

If ground controllers had not intervened to fix the problems, NASA said the Starliner could have been destroyed.

These latest findings stem from a joint investigation team formed by NASA and Boeing in the wake of the aborted test flight. The capsule ended up in the wrong orbit and returned to Earth two days later, parachuting down to a landing in New Mexico.

NASA has yet to decide whether Boeing must conduct another test flight without a crew, before putting astronauts on board. Just in case, Boeing reported last week that it took a \$410 million charge in its

fourth-quarter earnings, to cover a possible mission repeat.

"It remains too soon to speculate about next flight dates," Boeing said in a statement.

The investigation team found that "critical software defects" weren't detected before the flight "despite multiple safeguards," NASA said in a statement. The breakdowns in designing, coding and testing the software will require "systemic corrective actions."

The team also looked into a third problem, an intermittent space-to-ground communication problem that hampered controllers' ability to command and manage the capsule. □

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Weinstein trial: Prosecution rests on 6 women's accounts

By MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Some were aspiring actresses. One was a star on the rise. Another was looking to get more involved in behind-the-scenes aspects of the film and TV business. Six women out of the many who have accused Harvey Weinstein of vile sexual behavior have testified over the last two weeks at his New York City rape trial. Their harrowing accounts, the centerpiece of a prosecution case that rested Thursday after two weeks of testimony, could help convict the disgraced film producer and put him in prison for the rest of his life. The charges that jurors could soon be weighing involve just two allegations: that Weinstein, 67, raped a woman in March 2013 and he forced oral sex on another woman in 2006.

Other accusers were allowed to testify because prosecutors allege there was a practiced method to Weinstein's attacks. He maintains that any sexual encounters were consensual.

The women testified that he feigned interest in their careers, sometimes dangling auditions and starring roles as a guise to get them into a hotel room or an apartment, or barging in on them.

Then, they testified, he attacked. These are their stories.

AN ALLEGED RAPE, MARCH 2013

The woman, 34, alleges Weinstein trapped her in a Manhattan hotel room, angrily ordered her to undress as he loomed over her, and then raped her before they were to meet her friends for breakfast on the eve of his 61st birthday.

She alleges Weinstein raped her again several months later at a Beverly Hills, California, hotel. She said she isn't sure if she'll pursue charges there.

The woman testified for three days, more than any other accuser, and broke down crying in the middle of an exhaustive cross-

examination. Why, the defense asked, did the woman maintain a relationship with Weinstein — one that included consensual sexual encounters — for an extended period of time after she says she was raped?

After the woman lost her composure, and was heard screaming in a side room, the judge sent jurors home for the day. When she returned to the stand, she said her relationship with Weinstein was complex, but defiantly declared: "He is my rapist."

The Associated Press has a policy of not publishing the names of people who allege sexual assault without their consent. It is withholding name of the rape accuser because it isn't clear if she wishes to be identified publicly.

MIMI HALEYI, JULY 2006

Haleyi, now 42, alleges Weinstein forcibly performed oral sex on her at his SoHo apartment after he got her a job as a production assistant on the Weinstein-produced "Project Runway."

"I was kicking, I was pushing, I was trying to get away from his grip," she testified. "He held me down and kept pushing me down to the bed." She told jurors she thought she was being raped and wondered, "If I scream rape, will someone hear me?"

Haleyi said she and Weinstein had sex at a hotel two weeks later. She said she didn't want to be intimate, but didn't think Weinstein forced her to have sex. Weinstein's lawyers have suggested that episode is evidence he didn't coerce her during the first encounter, either.

Those episodes followed a May 2006 encounter at the Cannes Film Festival where Haleyi says he asked her to give him a massage. She said he also insisted she go with him to the Paris fashion shows, which she repeatedly declined.

ANNABELLA SCIORRA, late 1993 or early 1994

Prosecutors have charged that Weinstein's encounters



FILE - In this Monday, Jan. 27, 2020 file photo, Mimi Haleyi, right, arrives to testify in Harvey Weinstein's trial on charges of rape and sexual assault in New York.

Associated Press

with those women were predatory sexual assaults.

Under New York law, one way a person can be found guilty of that crime is if he or she committed certain sex offenses in the past, even if that conduct didn't result in criminal charges.

In Weinstein's case, prosecutors allege that before he assaulted Haleyi in 2006 and raped the woman in his hotel room in 2013, he raped actress Annabella Sciorra in late 1993 or early 1994 — an accusation that is too old to be the basis for criminal charges on its own. Sciorra, 59, was the first accuser to testify.

In a quivering voice, she told the jury that the burly Weinstein barged into her apartment after they attended a dinner with actress Uma Thurman and other industry figures, threw her on a bed and forced himself on her as she futilely kicked and punched him.

She said about a month later, she ran into him and confronted him. She said he replied, "that's what all the nice Catholic girls say" and then leaned toward her and added menacingly: "This remains between

you and I."

TARALE WULFF, 2005

A judge has allowed prosecutors to introduce testimony from three women as part of an effort to show that Weinstein used the same basic pattern to get women alone, and then assault them. Tarale Wulff, now 43 and a model, testified that Weinstein raped her at his SoHo apartment between May 2005 and July 2005 after luring her there with a ruse of reading a script for a movie. She said she froze as he attacked her, thinking that would make it "easier to get through, to get past it." Wulff also said that before the alleged rape, he accosted her at a night club where she was waitressing, led her to a hallway and started masturbating. Weinstein is not charged with a crime related to Wulff.

DAWN DUNNING, 2004

Dawn Dunning, also called as a witness to testify about Weinstein's pattern of behavior with women, told jurors that he put his hand up her skirt and fondled her genitals during what was

supposed to be a meeting about her fledgling career in his hotel suite in 2004, when she was 23. She says he later tried trading movie roles for three-way sex with him and his assistant. Dunning, now 40, said that when she laughed off that proposition, Weinstein told her, "you'll never make it in this business, this is how this industry works."

LAUREN MARIE YOUNG, FEBRUARY 2013

Lauren Marie Young, now 30, was the last accuser to take the witness stand. She testified that Weinstein stripped naked groped her breast and masturbated in the bathroom of his Beverly Hills hotel room days before the Oscars in February 2013. She said went to the room with Weinstein and his friend, a Mexican model, to continue a conversation they'd been having about her career. Her allegations are the subject of a criminal charge filed against Weinstein in California on Jan. 6, just as his New York trial was getting underway. He isn't charged in New York in connection with his dealings with Young. □



British actress Lashana Lynch poses at the 13th Annual ESSENCE Black Women in Hollywood Awards Luncheon, Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

Essence event affirms the power of black women in Hollywood

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY

Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Through laughs, tears and speeches that turned into sermons and affirmations, the overarching theme of this year's star-studded Essence luncheon was that in an unforgiving industry that often overlooks, black women need no validation from Hollywood — or elsewhere — to appreciate their self-worth.

"No one in this room derived from luck. We are a powerful force field that derived from greatness," said "Captain Marvel" actress Lashana Lynch at Thursday afternoon's Essence Black Women in Hollywood event. "We work hard on our craft and our self-love, and have to remind ourselves daily that we deserve a seat at the table."

"Queen & Slim" director Melina Matsoukas, another honoree, echoed Lynch's sentiments when she received her award from "Insecure" actress and creator Issa Rae, who tapped Matsoukas to direct the hit HBO comedy series.

"It feels incredible to be seen, respected and have your work valued; it means more when that acknowledgement comes from your own community," she said.

Matsoukas, who has also directed videos for A-listers including Beyoncé's "Lemonade" opus, added: "Recently I've been battling my own rage. As I keep saying, the daily onslaught of white supremacy and colonization is infuriating and also exhausting.

"I shared my sentiments with Ms. (Ava) DuVernay the other night, and what she said went deep. It was simply: 'Don't let them steal your joy,'" she said to applause. "Since them, I've been thinking about how to reclaim my own joy."

Attending the luncheon was certainly one way. The annual event is among the more festive and emotional of Oscars week, and always attracts an A-list crowd: This year's attendees included DuVernay, Kerry Washington, Janelle Monae, Cynthia Erivo, Lena Waithe, Sharon Osbourne, Brittany Howard, Gabrielle Union and Alfred Woodard (who honored Lynch).

Besides Lynch and Matsoukas, the director and cast of "Pose" and Emmy-nominee Niecy Nash were also honored. Erivo, a best actress nominee at the Oscars, is the only actor of color nominated, which has drawn renewed attention to the need for more diversity at the Academy Awards.

Before the luncheon, Washington spoke of the importance of the luncheon. "I love events like today because we actually get to be in a room and celebrate each other and encourage each other and remind each other that we're doing the good work. Right, to not focus as much on the problem, but to look at each other as the solution together," she said. "So I think as long as we just keep showing up for each other and doing this work and celebrating each other and encouraging

each other, then we'll get there.'

Eve was the host of the event, which began with a moment of silence for Kobe Bryant, his daughter Gianna and seven other people killed in a helicopter crash late last month.

Also remembered was the late icon Diana Carroll, who died last fall. Washington, a dear friend, remembered Carroll, the first black woman to star in her own TV series and one of the small circle of black women nominated for a best actress honor, as a trailblazer.

"Her presence in the upper tiers of excellence in this business makes her not just a hero but one of our founding mothers," Washington said. "That I am here, that we are all here, working and thriving in Hollywood is because she did the work first."

Lynch will star in the upcoming James Bond film "No Time to Die." The British actress talked about the importance of knowing many black girls will be validated seeing her on screen in the film. She credited the "extraordinary black women around me" for giving her the validation she needed, and paid special tribute to her mother, who was in the audience.

"If I can be half the woman you are I know that I will have succeeded," she said, fighting back tears.

There was plenty of emotion at the event, particularly when the women of "Pose" were honored. Cast mate and Emmy-winner Billy Porter's voice broke when he spoke about the importance of black transgender women being honored by Essence. Janet Mock, who directs the FX series about the ballroom culture and the LGBTQ world of the 1980s and 90s, noted how black trans women are often victims of violence.

"The struggle for black people must include black trans and queer people, period. And this award reaffirms that our stories, our lives, our experiences matter," she said, as "Pose" star MJ Rodriguez wiped away tears next to her along with Angelica Ross and Hailie Sahar.

But perhaps the most emotional honoree of the event was Nash, who was nominated for an Emmy last fall for her role in DuVernay's Netflix miniseries "When They See Us." The actress recently went through a divorce and while she cracked jokes through her speech, she cried as she talked about coming to the epiphany that she didn't need to be attached to anyone to be happy.

"I have never been better in my entire life, and I don't belong to nobody but myself," she said through tears. "God took me and he broke me and he gave me back to the people better than I was before." □



Kidman, Nyong'o, Peele and more describe 1st Oscar moments

By MIKE CIDONI LENNOX
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It happens in an instant: The envelope is opened, a name is called and the Oscar winner's life and career are changed forever.

To some, the first moments after an Academy Award win felt like an out-of-body experience — it came a shock, the memory is a blur, they felt disoriented.

Dozens of Oscars will be bestowed on Sunday at the Dolby Theatre. Some, like Antonio Banderas, Scarlett Johansson, Cynthia Erivo and Jonathan Pryce, have their first shot at winning.

Here's how six winners remember their first whirlwind moments after hearing "And the Oscar goes to ... " and their name.

NOT EASY BEING FIRST

The supporting actress award was presented first in 1989, bringing Geena Davis to the stage at the top of the show.

"I sort of can't believe I have to go first," Davis declared. Years later, she recalled being nervous about something else, too.

"Oh, gosh, I was so shocked, and it all became a sort of blur. I just wandered up on stage and then Melanie Griffith kissed me. ... She kissed me. And I remember thinking, 'Oh, I bet I have lipstick on my face now.' So, when I was giving my acceptance speech. I was like this," Davis said, putting her hand to her cheek much like she had years earlier.

"And people thought, 'Oh, she's shy' or something. But I was actually like, 'Oh, I have lipstick on.'"

NICE TO MEET YOU

Lupita Nyong'o was already an awards season darling by Oscar night in 2014, earning praise for her performance in "12 Years a Slave" and for her dazzling red carpet looks.

She covered her face when her name was announced as best supporting actress winner as those around her, including John Travolta, Brad Pitt and her brother, rushed to congratulate her.

"I remember being very



FILE - This March 4, 2018 file photo shows Nicole Kidman, left, presenting Jordan Peele with the award for best original screenplay for "Get Out" at the Oscars in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

disoriented and then Liza Minnelli grabbed me and gave me the biggest hug. And I was like, 'Wonderful. Thank you. Nice to meet you,'" Nyong'o recalled, laughing.

SETTING OSCAR DOWN

Sometimes, you've just got to put the Oscar down. That was the case for Alan Arkin, who won best supporting actor in 2007 for "Little Miss Sunshine."

Shortly after receiving the statuette from presenter Rachel Weisz, Arkin set it down on the stage and reached into his coat pocket. "I know you're not supposed to read but I would be totally incoherent if I didn't," Arkin said before delivering his speech.

"Acting for me has always been, and always will be, a team sport," Arkin said.

Years later, he recalled how otherworldly the moment felt.

"I remember it vividly. You leave your body and somebody else takes over and that's what it was like for

about three days. I wasn't there. I was somewhere else. I don't know where I — I didn't know where I was," Arkin said. "My body was — in two different places."

RUSSELL CROWE SAID DON'T CRY IF YOU GET UP THERE

The 2003 Oscars were a family affair for Nicole Kidman, who brought her parents and daughter to the ceremony.

Denzel Washington announced the best actress category and when he called out her name, Kidman reached out to hug her mother first. She then turned to her father and daughter seated in the second row.

"Russell Crowe said don't cry if you get up there and now I'm crying," Kidman said before thanking "The Hours" filmmakers.

Asked about the moment last month, Kidman said she remembered "just sort of being in absolute shock, total shock. I was very young and, so, I was like kind of — like it was all swirling around

me.

"I remember my mom and my dad being there, and I just remember it as one of the greatest moments in my life."

DENZEL WAS MY FOCAL POINT

When Jordan Peele won the best original screenplay Oscar in 2018, it was Kidman who called his name. The audience immediately leapt from their seats, including fellow nominee Greta Gerwig. They remained standing as Peele accepted his trophy and began speaking.

"I remember getting on stage and looking down and people were standing, which was crazy. And right down the middle was Denzel Washington," Peele said, noting that Washington was clapping enthusiastically.

"That's like the craziest thing in the world. He's, you know, he's it. So, you know, that was — Denzel was my focal point."

HE NEVER CAME

The elation that comes with

an Oscar win can be short-lived when the movie's fellow nominees are passed over.

That was the case in 1981, when Martin Scorsese's "Raging Bull" tied for the most nominations with "The Elephant Man."

First, the ceremony was delayed because of an assassination attempt against President Ronald Reagan.

"It was a quite extraordinary because Reagan had been shot and so they postponed the Oscars and Luciano Pavarotti was supposed to give the editing award. But ... opera singers book themselves up for three years, four years in advance. So, he didn't. And who did? Richard Pryor, who I just think was a genius," Thelma Schoonmaker, the film editor on "Raging Bull," recalled.

"And, so, he mangled my name. It was wonderful. He absolutely destroyed my name. And I was such a fan of his that when I went up on the stage, I grabbed his hand. ... And I think he might have just recently been burned from free-basing. I don't know. And I grabbed his hand and I just said, 'Oh, my God. I'm such a huge fan of yours.' I'd sort of forgotten.

"And so that was a great, wonderful moment. However, I won, De Niro won, and we were waiting backstage for Marty. And he never came. He didn't win. And that was possibly the worst night of my life."

It would take 16 years for Scorsese and Schoonmaker to celebrate an Oscar win on the same night. It happened with "The Departed."

They have another chance on Sunday, where both are nominated for "The Irishman." □



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